WHAT WERE THE **WILDEST PARTIES EVER THROWN**?

HISTORY REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 26 // FEBRUARY 2016 // £4.50

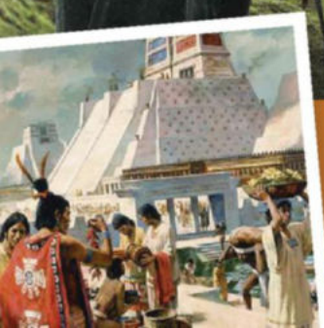


GANDHI
The father of a nation

THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS
Horror in the 17th century

HITLER vs BRITAIN
How the Führer planned to bring Britain to its knees in World War II

PLUS **THE REAL DAD'S ARMY**



AZTEC PARADISE
Was Tenochtitlán the greatest city ever?

CARAVAGGIO
Sex, violence and the Renaissance genius

TULIP MANIA
The flower that lost a fortune

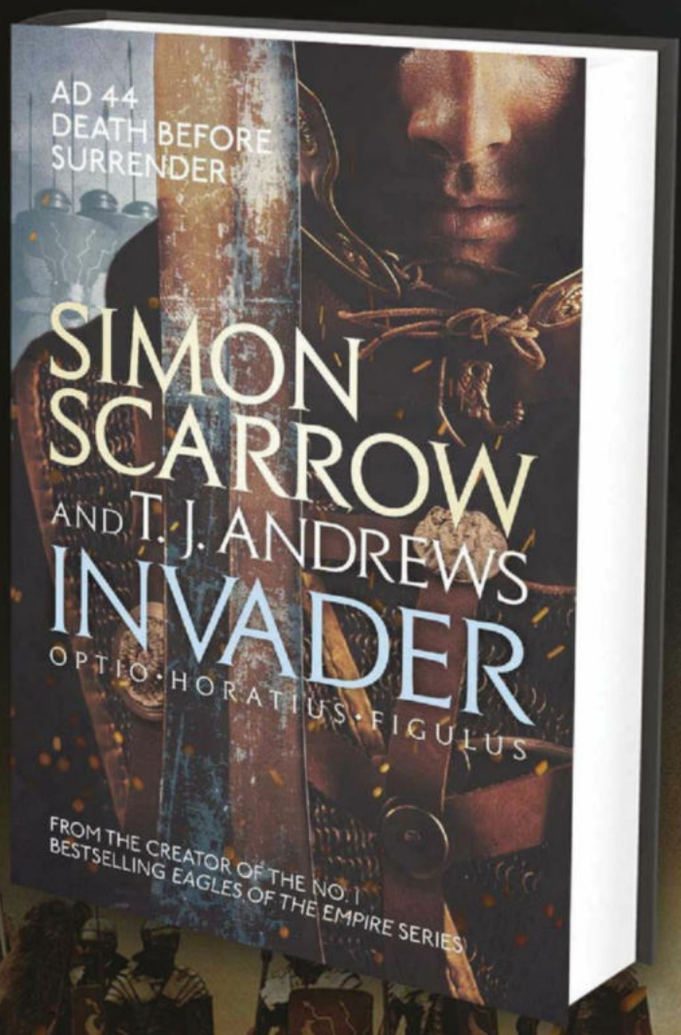


COURAGEOUS, SHREWD AND RUTHLESS

HORATIUS FIGULUS IS REPORTING FOR DUTY

DON'T MISS THE NEW ROMAN NOVEL BY *SUNDAY TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHORS

SIMON SCARROW AND T.J. ANDREWS



Welcome



As we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain last summer, it once again struck me quite **how much so many of us owe to those few.** Had Britain not maintained aerial superiority, then perhaps **Hitler's planned invasion** would have taken place, and what a different world that may have created! Of course, it wasn't as simple as that, and **Hitler's view of Britain** changed a number times throughout his life, as Gavin Mortimer explains from page 39. Gavin also guides us through the many and varied ways in which **the nation braced itself** for Nazi invasion from page 27.

Away from such dark days, we also celebrate the human spirit this issue – and where better to start than with our countdown of **the greatest parties ever thrown** (*p52*)? Then there's the extraordinary story of the young woman who **walked across the Australian desert** (*p74*) accompanied, for the most part, by only a **few camels and her pet dog.** And who better represents the triumph of the human spirit than Mahatma Gandhi (*p60*)?



How close did the Nazis get to marching down mainland British high streets, as in this picture from the occupied Channel Islands?

This issue is packed with more great tales from the past, from **the harrowing tragedy of the Salem Witch Trials** (*p47*) to the bizarre story of Tulip Mania (*p22*), **the original stock-market bubble**. Don't forget to write in and let us know your thoughts on what you've read!



Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our March issue, on sale 3 March 2016

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ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

6,000
The number of people it reportedly took a week to finish the largest cocktail in history. *See page 52.*

200
The number of citizens (mostly women, but also a few men) accused of witchcraft in the town of Salem, Massachusetts, from 1692–93. *See page 47.*

40
The approximate duration, in minutes, of the Battle of Culloden, which ended the Jacobite Uprising. *See page 58.*

ON THE COVER: ALAMY X5, AKG X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X3, MOVIESTILLS X1, COVER IMAGE ENHANCEMENT - CHRISSTOCKERDESIGN.CO.UK/ON THIS PAGE: GETTY X1



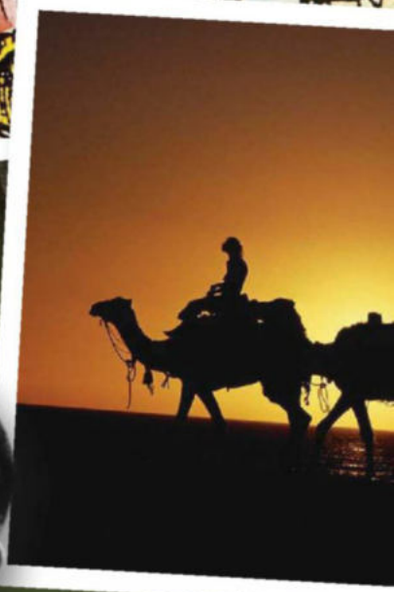
THIS MONTH'S **BIG STORY**

27 DAD'S ARMY

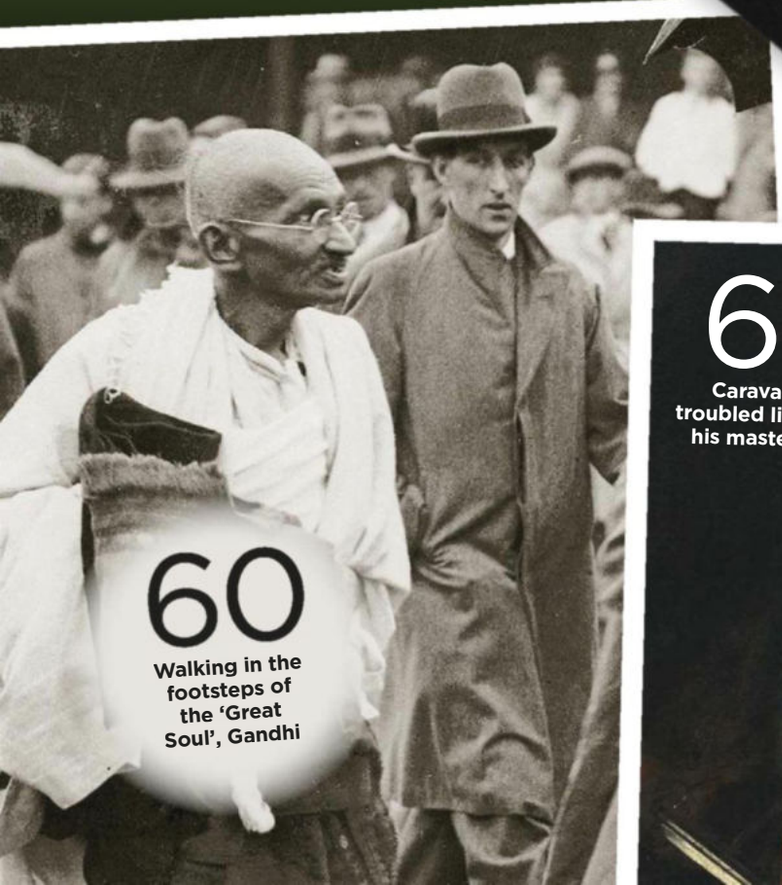
Who do you think you are kidding, Mr Hitler?



47 The Devil, death and despair in the Salem Witch Trials



39 Adolf Hitler's doomed dream of conquering Britain



60 Walking in the footsteps of the 'Great Soul', Gandhi



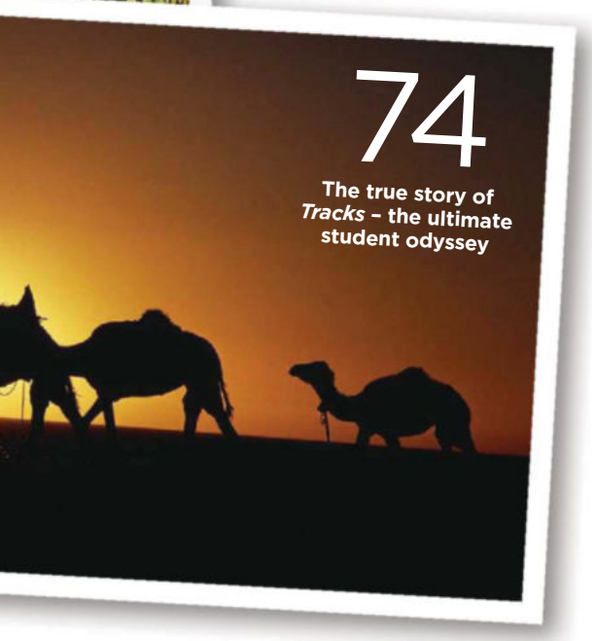
67 Caravaggio's troubled life behind his masterpieces



14 The smashing moment when a drunk saw a treasured Roman vase



FEBRUARY 2016
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Cassius Clay takes a new name p20

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COVER STORY **Hitler vs Britain**
The events leading to Hitler's planned invasion, Operation Sealion p39

The Salem Witch Trials
Hysteria grips the New World p47

Top 10: Wildest Parties Ever
Blow up balloons and don paper hats for history's biggest bashes p52

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A bloody end to the Jacobite fight to reclaim the British throne p54

In Pictures: Mahatma Gandhi The father of India p60

The History Makers: Caravaggio Tortured genius p67

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How a lone woman braved 1,700 miles of Australia's unforgiving terrain p74



TOP QUESTIONS
Could women in Ancient Rome hold power? (p87); Who invented the vending machine? (p86)

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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine



LETTER OF THE MONTH

HE'S JUST A KID

Was Billy the Kid one of history's most infamous villains or, as Greg believes, is he the victim of a smear campaign?

BELIEVING IN BILLY

As a student of history, I think Billy Bonney (better known as Billy the Kid) may have been misplaced on your list of History's 50 Most Infamous Villains (Christmas 2015). I have collected and read a multitude of historical accounts concerning young Mr Bonney and I believe he has been smeared with falsehoods throughout the historical record.

Young Billy was raised by a less-than-moral mother and never knew his father. He drifted about until he was hired by an Englishman by the name of John Tunstall, who was trying to rebuild the fortune and his family name when he emigrated to America and took up cattle ranching. Unfortunately for Tunstall, the nature of the US government at that time meant many appointed officials colluded with corrupt cattlemen in order to supply beef for army outposts and the Native American reservations.

"I believe Billy the Kid was wrongfully painted as an outlaw – his intent was to bring justice"

Known as the Murphy-Dolan faction, their aim was to starve out the Spanish Land Grant settlers and honest ranchers.

Tunstall was in the way of the faction and had to be eliminated. He was gunned down in cold blood – in front of Billy – by members of the Sheriff's Office. When other employees of Tunstall's tried to get justice, they were denied. At this time, as often happens when men resort to taking justice into their own hands, a group of men calling themselves 'The Regulators' set out to seek revenge on their employer's killers. In order to cover the corruption, Billy and those on his side needed to be shut up or eliminated, thus we have the many twists of the false charges, kangaroo courts, jailbreaks and finally the murder of Billy the Kid by Pat Garrett.

I believe that Billy was wrongfully painted as an outlaw when his intent was actually to bring justice to one of the few men who had given him opportunity and honour.

Greg R Snyder,
Colorado, USA

Greg wins a copy of *Landmark: a History of Britain in 50 Buildings*, by Anna Keay and Caroline Stanford, published by Frances Lincoln Publishers, worth £25. Marking the 50th anniversary of the Landmark Trust, this book charts nine centuries of British architectural history – from medieval cottages to military forts.



SEEKING JUSTICE

I read with interest the 'Letter of the Month' from Susan Sabo (January 2016), but she omits to mention World War II's most evil war criminal, Joseph Stalin. Without his peace treaty with Hitler, and their joint agreement to conquer and dismember Europe, the Nazis would have never had the free hand to start a war that killed millions.

With Hitler committing suicide in 1945, he obviously could not be brought to justice. Stalin, however, swapped over to the Allied side only when his Nazi comrade turned on him. As he became our ally for expediency, there was never the opportunity to bring him to justice, despite the irony that Stalin may have been responsible for more deaths than Hitler. The biggest outrage was that after fighting a war to free Europe from tyranny, Stalin was left to bring repression, racism and anti-Semitism to the parts of Eastern Europe he occupied.

Paul Wakeman,
West Midlands



STALLIN' OVER STALIN
Our story of the Nuremberg Trials (November 2015) has split opinion

I love your magazine. I've bought three issues so far and now decided to subscribe!
@xCountMeInx

THE EVILS OF WAR

Susan Sabo's 'Letter of the Month' (Hypocritical Justice?, January 2016) cannot go unchallenged. Firstly, the crimes of Fritz Sauckel and Klaus Barbie were rooted in an evil racist ideology. They were not related to winning the war at all.

Secondly, her remarks regarding Winston Churchill are mystifying. Is she suggesting that we could have won World War II without killing Germans and Japanese?

Thirdly, to equate the deaths resulting from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the evils of Nazism is risible. US President Truman ordered the bombing, after clear warnings, because Japan refused to surrender (even though the war was lost). An invasion of Japan would have resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans, and the servicemen held captive would have been butchered. The Emperor and

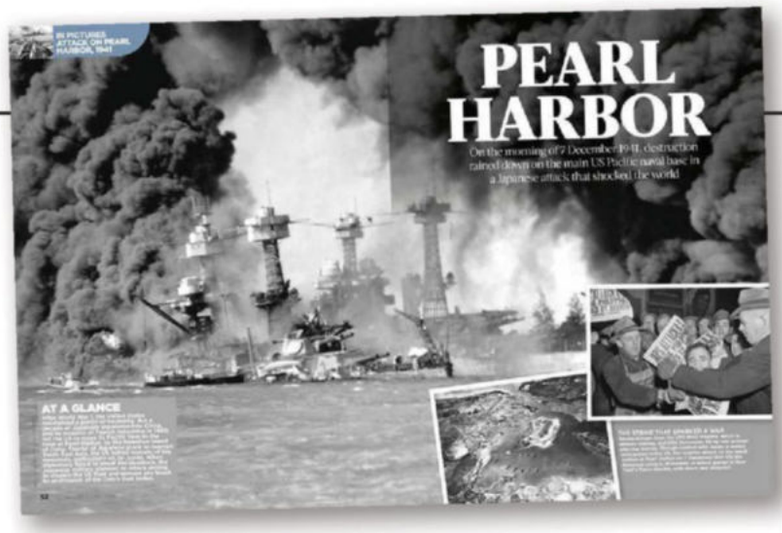
his senior military were responsible for the civilian casualties, not Truman.
Dr Barry Clayton, Lancashire

TOILET TROUBLES

In response to your question 'How did knights in armour go to the toilet?' (Q&A, January 2016), a more sensible answer would have been – they probably didn't have to. No one wore a full suit of armour all day, every day. You'd put it on for a joust (a few short bursts of activity) or a battle, which rarely lasted more than a few hours. For the rest of the time, you'd get rid of the heavy, awkward, encumbering stuff, and behave like everyone else.
George Middleton, Norfolk

Writer Greg Jenner replies:
You're right that most medieval battles were likely done within two hours, and jousting was conducted in short bursts. We do, however, know of a few protracted battles, which endured far longer in the age of plate armour (Towton in 1461 was claimed to have raged for ten hours, though this is probably exaggerated). Crucially, modern medical research shows that extreme combat stress increases the biological urge to urinate and defecate, something probably exacerbated in medieval times by knights withdrawing to take regular drinks in between the intense bouts of fighting. So I think there is a strong probability medieval knights did sometimes find themselves needing the loo while still in their armour.

I love *History Revealed*. My husband bought me a subscription for my birthday and I have never missed an issue. This week, I am in a production of *Calamity Jane* and have found out the she was a real person. I wondered how much of the story was true and if this might be an article at some point in the future?
Jodie Louise Meakin



FRIENDLY FIRE
During the attack, Americans mistakenly fired on Americans

A DAY WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

Most, if not all, of the civilian casualties during the Pearl Harbor attack (In Pictures, Christmas 2015) were not caused by bombs, but friendly fire. In the rush to get into the action, some of the inexperienced gun crews of the shipboard guns failed to set the variable timed fuses to explode at altitude, so they exploded when they came down, six to eight miles away. Of course, this was not acknowledged for 20 years or so.
Jim Duke, California, USA

Writer Jonny Wilkes replies:
It was not only civilians who fell victim to friendly fire during the Pearl Harbor attack. In the absolute chaos in the skies that morning, six American planes from the USS *Enterprise*'s fighter squadron VF-6 were accidentally targeted by anti-aircraft weapons, which resulted in the deaths of three pilots. Although tragic errors, friendly-fire casualties made up a small fraction of the overall losses, but you're absolutely right that the record should be set straight.

SILK ROAD SULTAN

Having just returned from a very interesting trip to the Silk Road in Central Asia, the story of Ibn Battuta caught my eye (Great Adventures, November 2015). It was a pleasure to read this short, succinct story accompanied by a superbly illustrated map. I was surprised to learn about the number of times he was married during his travels, and the numerous concubines and slave girls he kept. In this regard, he lived the life of a Sultan. How did he find the time to travel, one wonders?

But that should not detract us from his great accomplishments. After Marco Polo, he was truly one of the foremost Muslim 'globetrotters' in medieval days. People saw more of the world through his eyes, and learnt about the customs and cultures of others through his stories.
Biswamay Ray, MD, Illinois, USA

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 24 are:
Charlotte Priestman, Surrey
JC Deacy, Cheshire
CJ Deacy, Cheshire
Congratulations! You have each won a copy of ***Great Maps*** by Jerry Brotton, worth £25.
To test those little grey cells with this month's crossword, turn to page 96.

GET IN TOUCH

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SNAPSHOT

1933 BULLET PROOF

On 6 February 1933, Chicago Police test a new defence in the war against violent crime – an iron shield. The flaws, however, are hard to avoid. The thick plate is heavy to carry around and yet it's not big enough to cover the whole body of the under-fire cop, so can only be used while crouching behind it. Moreover, commercially sold bulletproof vests have been around since the mid-19th century, so it seems this shield isn't the crime-preventing game-changer the Chicago cops hope it will be.

GETTY


1
2



SNAPSHOT

1927 DIRTY DINO

Despite being a paleontologist-baiting inaccurate stab at what our Earthling forebears looked like, the dinosaurs of London's Crystal Palace Park have been a wildly popular attraction since 1854. They are even referenced by Charles Dickens in *Bleak House*. When this snap is taken in 1927, the icthyosaurus is only being dragged away as part of the monsters' regular brush-ups, but a full restoration project in 2002 leads to the dinosaurs being given official Grade I listed status. One in the eye for the paleontologists.

GETTY







SNAPSHOT

1969 THEY SINK IT'S ALL OVER

Britain bristles with hideously violent sporting traditions – many allegedly having their roots in a bunch of Saxons kicking around an enemy's head – but the Derbyshire town of Ashbourne's Royal Shrovetide Football Match is perhaps the most celebrated. Here, a team of local competitors chase the ball through Henmore Brook during the chilly two-day event in February 1969. Still continuing to this day, the Ashbourne game can be traced back at least to 1667, originating as the more comfy sounding 'hugball'.

PRESS ASSOCIATION

"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

The weirdest, most wonderful **February** titbits





AN IRREGULAR PROPOSAL

1288 ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS...

According to British and Irish tradition, the year 2016 offers one of those rare chances for marriage proposals to work differently – as **it is said that women can pop the question only on a leap year**. A popular story claims this began in 1288, when Queen Margaret of Scotland passed it into a law, which also claimed that **any man who refused a proposal on 29 February would have to pay a heavy fine**. Yet as Margaret was five and living in Norway at the time (and there being no evidence of this law on the statute books) this origin is historically spurious.



UP IN FLAMES!

1497 LIGHTING THE BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES

What's the best way to bring yourself closer to God? According to the supporters of the **powerful and puritanical priest Girolamo Savonarola**, it was by burning your worldly possessions associated with sin, temptation and vanity. On 7 February 1497, thousands of men and women lit fires in the streets of Florence, Italy, to destroy objects such as fine clothing, cosmetics, musical instruments and mirrors. Worst of all, the 'Bonfire of the Vanities' claimed **so-called immoral books and priceless works of art**.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT BEARS

1903 THE BEAR TRUTH

During a hunting trip, US President Theodore 'Teddy' Roosevelt was having no luck finding his desired prey, a bear, so his assistants tied one down for him. Yet the Hunter-in-Chief **refused to take the shot as he believed it to be unsportsmanlike**. News of this apparent act of mercy soon spread, and even inspired Brooklyn stationers Morris & Rose Michtom to make **stuffed toy bears in the President's honour**. They began to be sold in early 1903, carrying the President's nickname – Teddy.



LEAP OF FAITH
The leap year tradition is also attributed to a fifth-century Irish nun, Brigit, who pleaded with St Patrick to allow women to propose marriage to shy suitors.

THE PROMISED LAND

1472 NORSE AND MARRIAGE

King Christian of Norway and Denmark had hoped to form an alliance with Scotland by marrying off his daughter, Margaret, to James III. But when he **failed to stump up the dowry for the union**, he had no choice but to put up parts of his territory as collateral. Pledging the chilly northern islands of Orkney and Shetland was intended to be temporary but the cash-strapped King couldn't make any of the payments. So on 20 February 1472, **the islands were signed over** – and have stayed in Scotland's hands ever since.





Reconstructive work to remove all signs of the vandalism continued until the late-20th century.

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

1845 VASE VANDALISED

Late on 7 February 1845, a visibly intoxicated man stumbled into the British Museum and rashly ignored the strict rule of 'look but don't touch'. At the tail of a week-long bender, the young Irishman, William Mulcahy, **used another sculpture to smash the nearby Portland Vase to pieces**. Due to a mistake in the wording of his police charge, however, the vandal avoided the worst of the hangover, as he **could only be convicted for the destruction of the vase's protective glass box**, rather than the first-century Roman treasure itself.

"...OH BOY"

The major events of **February**

14 FEBRUARY AD 269
HEAD OVER HEELS
The traditional date given for the beheading of Roman priest, and later saint, Valentine.

7 FEBRUARY 1301
INTO THE DRAGON'S DEN
The future Edward II, while a teen, is made the first Prince of Wales.

19 FEBRUARY 1473
CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE
Revolutionary astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus is born in Royal Prussia.

2 FEBRUARY 1665
START SPREADING THE NEWS
British forces capture the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam – it is renamed after the new governor, the Duke of York.

10 FEBRUARY 1840
V&A LAUNCHES
The 20-year-old Queen Victoria marries her German cousin, Prince Albert.

8 FEBRUARY 1950
UNDER STASI ORDERS
East Germany's feared and ruthless secret state police, the Stasi, is founded to carry out surveillance and espionage.

15 FEBRUARY 1971
THE PENNY DROPS
On 'Decimal Day', the UK and Ireland converts to a decimalised currency.

A ROYAL RANSOM

1194 LET LOOSE THE LION

While returning from his bloody and costly crusade, King Richard the Lionheart had fallen into the clutches of an enemy – not Saladin in the Holy Land, but Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI. **Imprisoned for well over a year**, Richard was finally released on 4 February 1194 after England forked up the ruinous ransom of **100,000 pounds of silver**. Not only was this several times what could be raised in a year but the coffers were already empty to pay for the ill-advised crusade. The fact that it was raised was a remarkable fiscal feat, especially as **Richard's scheming brother, John**, was offering the captors tens of thousands to keep their prisoner behind bars.

TOWN VERSUS GOWN

1355 OXFORD BLUES

The historically acrimonious relations between Oxford locals ('Towns') and students ('Gowns') were never as strained as in February 1355. What began as **two students moaning** in one of the town's many pubs – which resulted with them throwing their drinks into the innkeeper's face – **spilled over into a full-scale two-day riot**. The fracas caused the deaths of 63 scholars and some 30 townspeople.



AND FINALLY...

On 27 February 1964, the Italian government announces that it is looking for **ideas to save the famously leaning Tower of Pisa** from collapse. It took another 35 years, however, before the tower was closed to the public and restoration work began.

ALAMY X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X5, ISTOCK X5

EXTRA!

9 A.M. FINAL

Los Angeles Times

9 A.M. FINAL

EQUAL RIGHTS — LIBERTY UNDER THE LAW — TRUE INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM

VOL. LXI — WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25, 1942. — DAILY, FIVE CENTS

L.A. AREA RAIDED!

Jap Planes Peril Santa Monica, Seal Beach, El Segundo, Redondo Long Beach, Hermosa, Signal Hill

Roaring out of a brilliant moonlit western sky, foreign aircraft flying both in large formation and singly, flew over Southern California early today and drew heavy barrages of anti-aircraft fire—the first ever to sound over United States continental soil against an enemy invader.

No bombs were reported dropped.

At 5 a.m. the police reported that an airplane had been shot down near 185th St. and Vermont Ave. Details were not available. Earlier, the Fourth Air Force in San Francisco said that at least one plane had been downed in the raid.

Sirens shrieked throughout the Southland at 2:23 a.m., and an immediate blackout was enforced.

Almost instantly the great fingers of light from the giant Army searchlights shot into the sky, clustering first in an area appearing above the vast El Segundo oil refineries.

Simultaneously the anti-aircraft defenses of the city roared into action and soon the entire southwestern skies of the city were ablaze with orange bursts.

The planes, flying in number variously estimated at from 8 to 20, flew at an altitude of

Turn to Page A, Column 1

Enemy Girds for Knockout Burma Blow

Reinforcements Moved Up as Defenders Fear Fall

result of blows struck by the Dutch-Australian garri... of the Portuguese area or Dutch ... tions warplanes based on Australia or Java. The Japanese gained a foothold in both the Dutch and Portuguese sections of Timor last week.

Japanese raiders who flew at 20,000 feet killed one person and injured five yesterday in dropping 20 bombs on Port Moresby, Southern New Guinea island outpost less than 400 miles off the north tip of Australia, but were said to have caused no important damage to service buildings. The port was attacked again this afternoon.

Domei, Japanese news agency, said warships operating against Koepang had captured a Dutch freighter and a tanker.

The battle crisis heightened in

Turn to Page 2, Column 3

Today's Latest War Bulletins

BANDOENG, Feb. 25. (AP) — Allied aircraft sank two large Japanese transport ships in a raid on a concentration near Macas-

...dren."

TOKYO, Feb. 25. (From Japanese Broadcasts) (AP) — Japa-

In Colorado-- 56 Below Zero

KREMMLING (Colo.) Feb. 25. (AP) — The temperature in this Central Colorado mountain town —not today but a week ago— was 56 degrees below zero.

The report is unofficial, from a railroad station agent's thermometer, but the weather bureau permits its publication now —for whatever aid and comfort it may give the enemy to know that Colorado can match Russian temperatures.

Fifth-Column Acts Reported During Raids

Three Japanese Seized; Mystery Movements and Lights Stir Residents

Mysterious lights, suspicious Japanese, robbery attempts marked the city's first air raid.

In the Tarzana Hills Burbank police saw a string of lights in V-form pointing toward the Lockheed aircraft plant.

Other lights were seen off Point Fermin.

Still others were reported at Redondo and in the hills back of Hermosa Beach.

Air Raid Warden Lou Schukin of Beverly Hills saw winking green and white flashes in the Windsor Hills.

Three suspicious Japanese men and a woman [illegible] taken into [illegible] Venice pier.

Police were called to stop prowlers who were trying to break in a bank at Laurel Canyon Drive and Ventura Blvd.

A garbage can was thrown through a jewelry store window at First and Broadway.

Home Damaged by Metal From Sky During Raid

Fragments of metal early today hailed from the sky to damage the home of Mrs. H. G. Landis, 1738 W. 42rd St., as Army searchlights and anti-aircraft fire probed the heavens for foreign planes menacing Los Angeles.

Mrs. Landis reported to author-

Turn to Page A, Column 3

THE FIRST CASUALTY

Despite the rapid climb down from the military, the following morning's papers were full of **apparently confirmed details of foreign invaders**, including a successfully downed plane. Unsurprisingly, the report admits that "Details were not available".

JOHN FROST NEWSPAPERS X1, PRESS ASSOCIATION X2

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **25 February 1942**, it seemed the USA was facing its first Japanese invasion

"A FALSE ALARM DUE TO WAR NERVES" NAVY SECRETARY FRANK KNOX

Less than three months after the tragedy of Pearl Harbor and the United States' entry into World War II – and only a day after a few potshots were taken by a Japanese sub off the Santa Barbara coast – Americans could perhaps be forgiven for being somewhat jittery. Nonetheless, the 'Battle of Los Angeles', as the events of 25 February 1942 came to be known, remains something of an embarrassment for the US military.

Not long after midnight, confusing lights seen in the sky off the Californian coast led to air-raid sirens filling the air and thousands of wardens scrambling to protect the US from a potential Japanese bombardment. In the ensuing hours, a total blackout was ordered and over 1,400 shells were fired in one hour, despite no bombs being dropped and no planes officially spotted. Five deaths still occurred, however, due to car accidents and heart attacks triggered by the chaos.

Red faces abounded at the press conference the following morning, when Secretary of the US Navy Frank Knox admitted that it was a false alarm, triggered by "anxiety and war nerves". Theories ranged from a ploy to move munitions production further inland to rather more interstellar conspiracy theories. But although the confusion led Congressman Leland Ford to complain that "none of the explanations so far offered removed the episode from the category of 'complete mystification'", it's now believed that the original spur of the panic was a single lost weather balloon, glinting in the sky.



WATCH THE SKIES
This highly doctored photo led to decades of suspicion of a cover-up hiding the fact that **alien spaceships** were the cause of the 'Battle of LA' false alarm. It even loosely inspired a 2011 sci-fi film, *Battle: Los Angeles*.

CONFUSION AND CHAOS
The night sky was lit up by shells, which sprayed shrapnel down on Los Angeles – damaging cars and buildings

1942 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

8 FEBRUARY Forces from **Japan invade Singapore** and take Allied forces utterly by surprise, leading to the humiliating surrender of this crucial corner of the British Empire.

10 FEBRUARY The first-ever gold record for 1 million sales of a pop recording is **presented to Glenn Miller** for his beloved performance of the swing number *Chattanooga Choo Choo*.

27 FEBRUARY Only a couple of days after the embarrassment of LA, **the Battle of the Java Sea** provides a far more real engagement for Japanese and US forces – which the Allies badly lost.

GRAPHIC HISTORY

A look inside the Academy Awards'® master cabinet

1929 AND THE WINNER IS...

*Since the winners of the first Oscars® were announced on **18 February 1929**, nearly 3,000 of the iconic statuettes have been awarded...*

QUICK AS A FLASH
As the winners had **already been announced**, the first Academy Awards ceremony, in 1929, lasted just **15 minutes**.



Best Sound Mixing
First awarded: 1930*



Best Animated Short
Awarded since 1932



AS GOOD AS GOLD
During **World War II**, the statuettes were made from **painted plaster** because of metal shortages.

Best Cinematography
First awarded: 1929*



WHO WAS OSCAR?
The most likely **origin story** for the award's moniker is that the statuette reminded the Academy's Librarian of her **Uncle Oscar**.

Best Directing
First Awarded: 1929



Best Production Design
First awarded: 1929*

1932
There was a tie for Best Actor – Wallace Beery (*The Champ*) and Fredric March (*Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*) shared the honour.



Best Adapted Screenplay
First awarded: 1929



Clark Gable didn't win his Oscar for his career-defining role in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), but for *It Happened One Night* (1934).

THE BIG THREE
Ben-Hur, *Titanic* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* share the title for most Oscars, with **11 each**.

Best Actor
First awarded: 1929



Best Live Action Short
First awarded: 1932*



Best Original Score
First awarded: 1935

IN MEMORIAM *Honouring some of the awards that are no longer with us...*

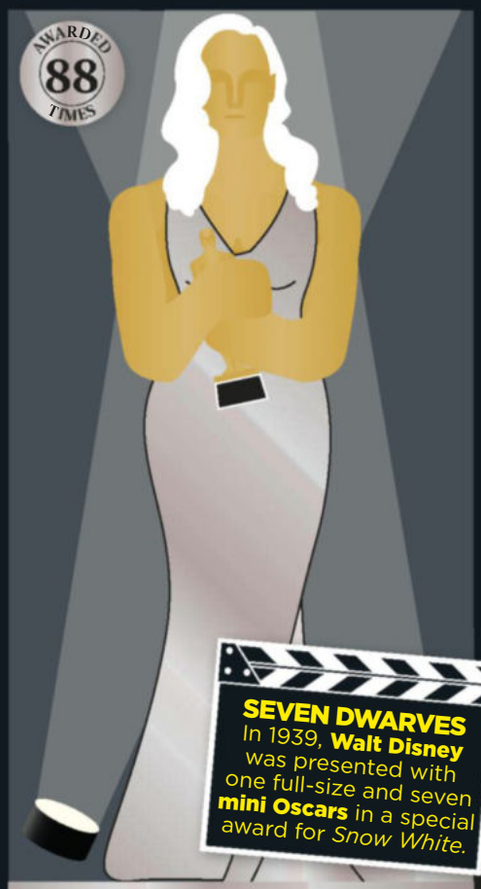
- BEST TITLE WRITING **1929**
- BEST DIRECTOR, COMEDY PICTURE **1929**
- BEST ENGINEERING EFFECTS **1929**
- BEST UNIQUE AND ARTISTIC QUALITY OF PRODUCTION **1929**
- BEST ORIGINAL STORY **1929-57**
- BEST SHORT FILM – NOVELTY **1933-36**
- BEST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **1934-37**
- BEST DANCE DIRECTION **1936-38**
- ACADEMY JUVENILE AWARD **1935-61**
- BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM – TWO REELS **1937-57**
- BEST SCORE: ADAPTATION OR TREATMENT **1963-68**
- BEST ORIGINAL MUSICAL OR COMEDY SCORE **1996-99**

1940
When Hattie McDaniel won Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Gone With the Wind*, she became the first African-American Oscar-winner.

*These awards have, at various stages, been awarded in sub-categories, such as black-and-white and colour; different movie lengths; and genre

INFOGRAPHIC: ROBBIE BENNIE, ©A.M.P.A.S.®

AGE MATTERS
Shirley Temple became the **youngest-ever winner** in 1935, when she was given the Juvenile Award at the age of six.



SEVEN DWARVES
In 1939, **Walt Disney** was presented with one full-size and seven **mini Oscars** in a special award for *Snow White*.

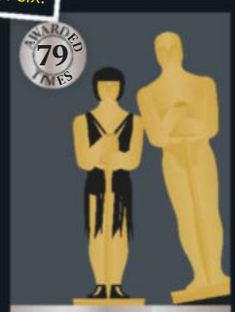
Best Actress
First awarded: 1929



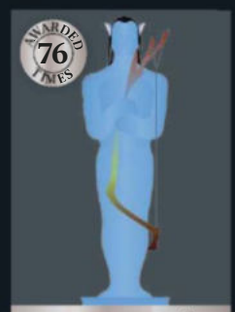
Best Original Song
First awarded: 1935



Best Supporting Actor
First awarded: 1937



Best Supporting Actress
First awarded: 1937



Best Special/Visual Effects
First awarded: 1940



Best Original Screenplay
First awarded: 1941



Titanic not only tied for the title of most Oscar wins (see The Big Three, left), but also for the most nominations – with 14, it matched *All About Eve*'s record from 1950.

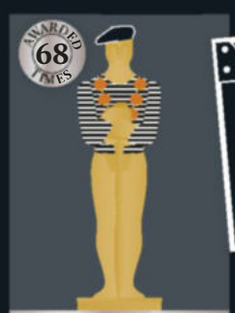
2003
Best Documentary winner Michael Moore (*Bowling for Columbine*) used his acceptance speech to object to the Iraq War. He was met with boos.



Best Documentary Short
First awarded: 1942



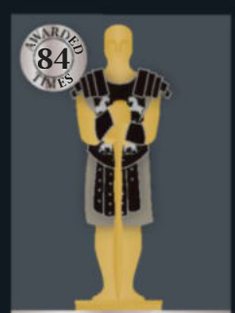
Best Documentary
First awarded: 1943*



Best Foreign-Language Film
First awarded: 1948

THE ITALIAN JOB
Italian is the language that has most often bagged the **Best Foreign Language** gong, with 14 wins.

Best Picture
First awarded: 1929



Best Costume Design
First awarded: 1949*



Best Film Editing
First awarded: 1935

1974
Just before host David Niven presented the award for Best Picture, a streaker darted across the stage, flashing a peace sign.



Best Sound Editing
First awarded: 1964



Best Makeup & Hairstyling
First awarded: 1982



Best Animated Feature
First awarded: 2002

Pixar has won half of the Oscars for Best Animated Feature. *Shrek*, which won the inaugural award, was one of only two wins for Dreamworks in the category.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The poetic pugilist Cassius Clay makes a momentous decision

1964 CASSIUS CLAY BECOMES CASSIUS X

The day after becoming heavyweight champion of the world, the 22-year-old boxer's life changed forever...

Prior to his historic fight against Sonny Liston on 25 February 1964, the American press were already dead set against the young contender, Cassius Clay. They had changed their tune about the previously racially abused Liston, presenting him as akin to a spiritual Great White Hope who would knock back the arrogant upstart. Yet once Clay had skilfully taken Liston's belt, the gloves were off.

At a press conference the next day, Clay announced his decision to join the pro-segregation black supremacist group, the Nation of Islam (NoI), and change his name – not to his now familiar moniker of Muhammad Ali, but to Cassius X, dropping the surname he saw as inherited from slave-owners.

THE NAME GAME

"When I hear the name, I want the truth," he told interviewers. "People watching this interview now got slave names if they're black... Man, nobody could argue with this... if you leave this country and go to Asia and Africa, all you is hear is national names like Hassan, Omar, Ishmael, Elijah, Muhammad, Ali, Akbar. These are the names of dark people. When we were made slaves in America, we took their names. But our people are still slaves mentally." He had been a secret member of the NoI for years, inspired largely by the fearless preaching of Malcolm X, (who was the star of the boxer's entourage for the fight).

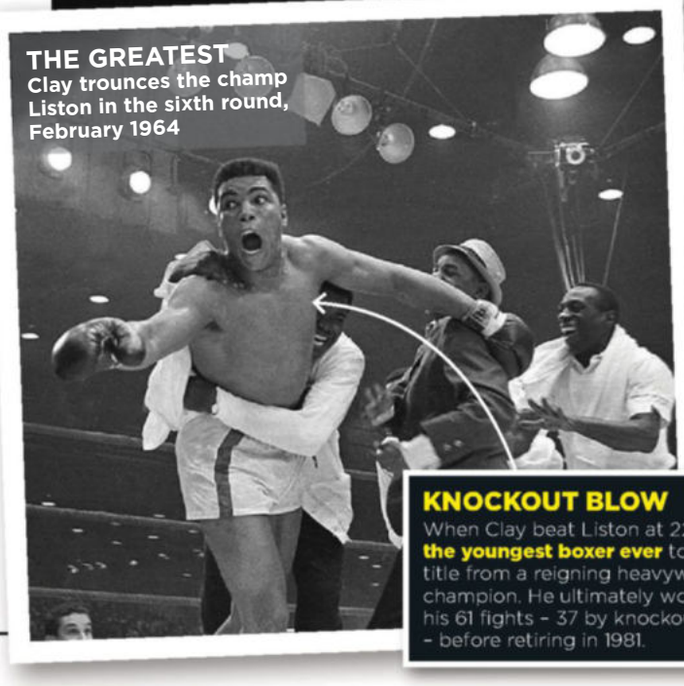
Things, however, quickly turned irreparably sour between the friends. The NoI leader Elijah Muhammad (who would give the pugilist his later, more famous name) promoted Clay before the fight, despite previous anti-boxing sentiment within the group, which inspired Malcolm X to convert to Sunni Islam.

The old friends only chanced to meet on one more occasion, when Malcolm X returned from pilgrimage to Mecca, and Ali publicly turned his back on his former mentor. Any hope of reconciliation was wiped out almost a year after Clay's first great triumph, when Malcolm X was assassinated on 21 February 1965.

"Turning my back on Malcolm was one of the mistakes I regret most in my life," Ali later said. "But he was killed before I got the chance. He was a visionary – ahead of us all." Ali himself converted to Sunni Islam in 1975.



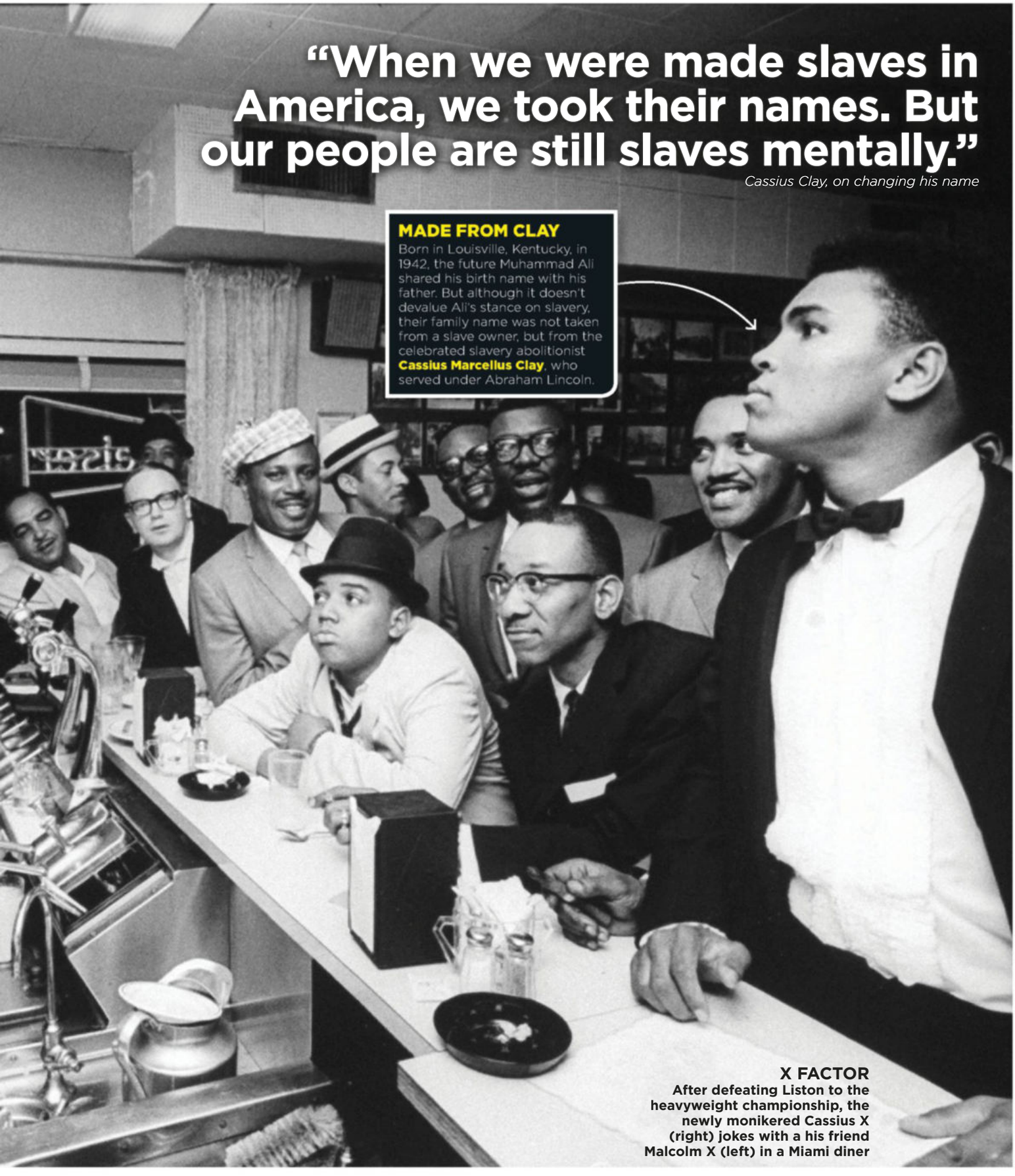
X MARKS THE SPOT
Malcolm Little was 25 years old and serving a prison sentence for larceny when he **joined the Nation of Islam in 1950**. He rejected his birth name and began signing his inflammatory letters as 'Malcolm X'.



THE GREATEST
Clay trounces the champ Liston in the sixth round, February 1964

KNOCKOUT BLOW
When Clay beat Liston at 22, he was **the youngest boxer ever** to take the title from a reigning heavyweight champion. He ultimately won 56 of his 61 fights – 37 by knockouts – before retiring in 1981.

GETTY X1, PRESS ASSOCIATION X1



“When we were made slaves in America, we took their names. But our people are still slaves mentally.”

Cassius Clay, on changing his name

MADE FROM CLAY

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1942, the future Muhammad Ali shared his birth name with his father. But although it doesn't devalue Ali's stance on slavery, their family name was not taken from a slave owner, but from the celebrated slavery abolitionist **Cassius Marcellus Clay**, who served under Abraham Lincoln.

X FACTOR

After defeating Liston to the heavyweight championship, the newly monikered Cassius X (right) jokes with a his friend Malcolm X (left) in a Miami diner

THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

How the Netherlands fell prey to 'Tulip Mania'

TULIP FEVER

This year sees the release of a new film, *Tulip Fever*. Starring **Alicia Vikander, Dane DeHaan, Christoph Waltz and Judi Dench**, it follows a lovestruck couple as they try and build a future together – by investing in the tulip phenomenon.

1637 THE DUTCH RISK EVERYTHING ON THE COST OF A FLOWER

A dynamic, newly free country is brought to its knees by the price of flowers now available for a few pounds at the supermarket...

Despite their long-held association with Holland, tulips were not introduced to the Low Countries until the mid-16th century. It all started when the Holy Roman Emperor's Turkish ambassador distributed bulbs to Northern Europe, and it was soon discovered that the Netherlands provided a perfect environment for the intensely coloured rarities to thrive. Within a generation, the blooms and their bulbs were fast becoming a new status symbol for the Dutch.

ADDING COLOUR

Compared to the French, Spanish and Germans, the Netherlands rarely ranks as one of England's top global competitors in history. Yet there were centuries of empire-building enmity between the two nations, and the English were regularly rattled by Dutch power and ambition. Then by the 17th century, a Dutch Golden Era was dawning. Freed from Spanish rule, peace meant that the Dutch could channel their resources in other areas, triggering a new economic lease of life for many. Dutch merchants benefited from East Indies trade, which could give as much as 400 per cent increase on an investment.

Given these conditions, and the profusion of moneyed families in the country wanting to show off their fine houses and gardens, perhaps it's not surprising that the latest blazes of floral colour could become much prized. But the escalation of the value of tulips as the 17th century developed was beyond anyone's wildest dreams – or nightmares.

Tulips generally fell into four categories of rarity, and therefore cost. The bulbs of single-colour tulips in red or yellow hues were as comparably cheap as they are today, while the more distinguished 'Rosen' or 'Violetten' varieties, with white streaks on the coloured petals, could fetch a higher price. Above and beyond these, however, the most hotly sought-after bulbs were classified as 'Bizarre', with a profusion of coloured streaks blanketing the flower. Today, botanists now know these strains of tulip to be the result of bulbs infected by a virus, but in the 17th century, they were as valuable as a flower could get. Added to this fashion for select strains was the simple fact that tulips only bloom briefly once a year, and bulb strains take several years to cultivate, increasing the exclusivity of these already highly desirable luxury goods.

BLOOMING EXPENSIVE

The prices of tulip bulbs rose to meet the swelling demand, but by 1637, the situation had got rather out of hand. One report claimed 12 acres of land was exchanged for a *Semper augustus* bulb, while a single bulb of the 'Viceroy' tulip was sold by an Amsterdam florist for a haul of goods (including two tons of butter, 1,000 pounds of cheese, 24 pounds of wheat, twelve sheep, a bed and a solid silver cup) worth a grand total of 2,500 florins, or Dutch guilders. The average annual wage for a craftsman in the Netherlands at the time was somewhere in the region of 130 florins.

There were many reasons for such ludicrously inflated prices, but as with many other famous financial 'bubbles' and crashes in history – such as the millennial dot-com crash – a key factor was the ephemeral nature of the

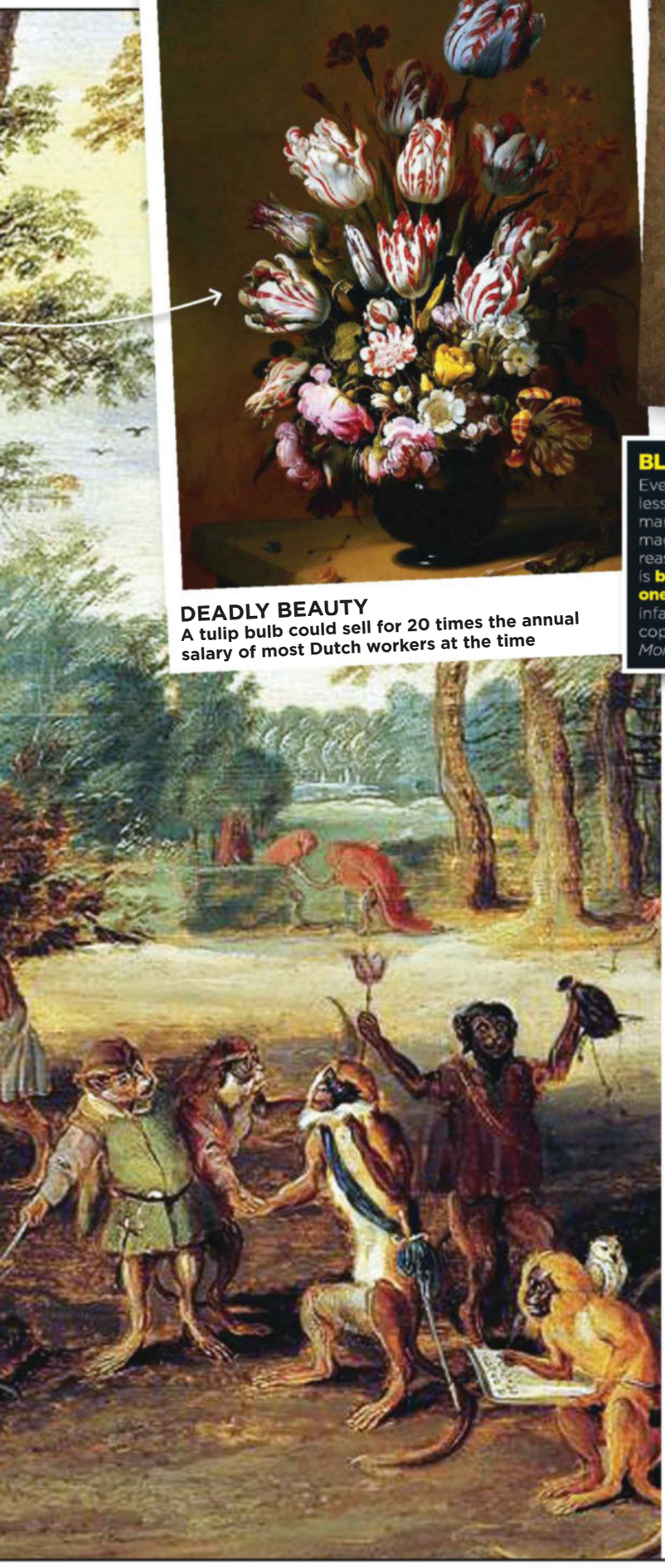
"A golden bait hung temptingly out before the people... Nobles, citizens, farmers, footmen, maids, even chimney sweeps and old clotheswomen, dabbled in tulips."

Scottish journalist Charles McKay in his 1841 study
Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds

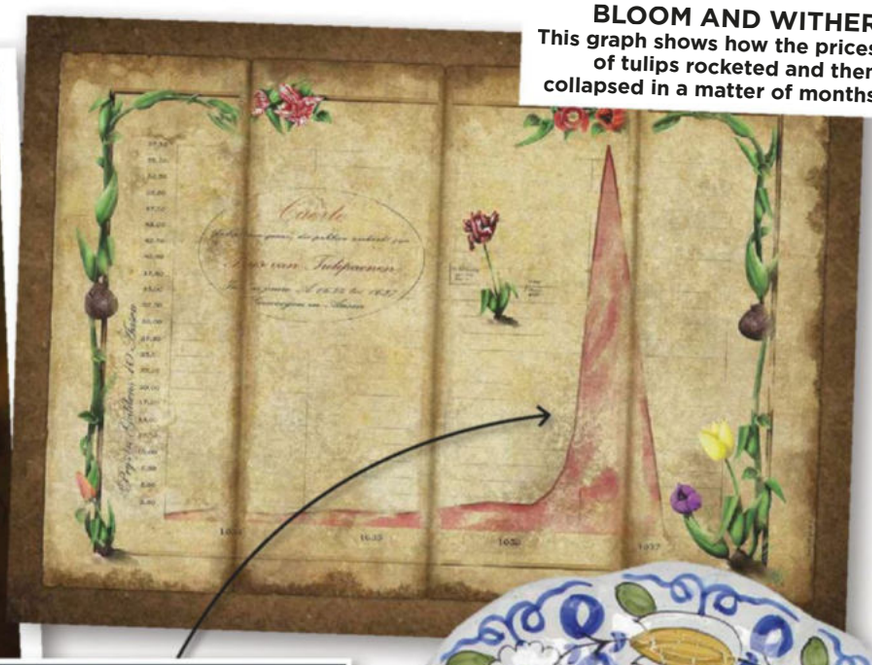


MONKEY BUSINESS
Tulip buyers and sellers are depicted as monkeys in this satirical 1640 painting by Flemish artist Jan Brueghel the Younger

AKG X2, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, RENE PRONK X1



DEADLY BEAUTY
A tulip bulb could sell for 20 times the annual salary of most Dutch workers at the time



BLOOM AND WITHER
This graph shows how the prices of tulips rocketed and then collapsed in a matter of months

BLOOM AND BUST

Even today, Tulip Mania holds lessons for the world's economic markets, with *Business Insider* magazine claiming: "The main reason we still remember it today is **bubbles kept happening. No one learned their lesson**." The infamous Gordon Gecko has a copy in his home in *Wall Street 2: Money Never Sleeps* (2010).



TULIP TRINKETS
Not only were the tulips a lucrative commodity, but they inspired a wealth of merchandise

goods. Demand had long outstripped supply by 1637, and so tulip traders found themselves wildly speculating on flowers that were still dormant in the frozen ground, with promissory notes exchanged in lieu of the goods themselves.

Fortunes were won and lost overnight during the 'Tulip Mania', as bulbs became the country's fourth biggest export, after cheese, herring and gin. So lucrative had the trade become, it wasn't just merchants and florists caught in the runaway trading, but honest middle-class families were also sinking their valuables into the business in expectation of multiple increases on their apparently cast-iron investments.

WITHERING AWAY

The boom period was short-lived – in fact, the bust followed extremely soon after the peak of the mania in early 1637. It's possible that the first sign of the crash was a Haarlem bulb auction that lacked the usual obsessive crowds, which was put down to an outbreak of the plague. This sign, added to the growing fear surrounding the inflated prices, caused a sudden drop in prices every bit as egregious as the original growth.

Financial ruin swept across the Netherlands, affecting those in every strata of society, and the phenomenon would act as a textbook warning to traders and speculators to this day. It was the first economic bubble, only eventually outdone by the South Sea bubble of 1720.

So if you see any tulips at reduced prices this spring: BUY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We're keen to hear any unusual ideas you may have for extraordinary tales...

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LEFT, LEFT, LEFT RIGHT LEFT
Colonel Tickler marches his Home Guard unit through Maidenhead in June 1940

THIS MONTH'S BIG STORY

WE SHALL DEFEND OUR ISLAND

THE WAR AT HOME

GAVIN MORTIMER
A best-selling author and award-winning historian, Gavin has penned numerous non-fiction books focusing on World War II. Among his most recent works are *The SBS in World War II* (2013) and *The Men Who Made the SAS: The History of the Long Range Desert Group* (2015).

WHAT'S THE STORY?

When Britain declared war on Germany in September 1939, the average civilian would have had little idea how crucial their role would be in the war effort. With their lives ever-more restricted by rationing, curfews and black outs, and while under repeated attack from the enemy, the civilian population reacted by mobilising on a scale that took the concept of 'doing your bit' to a whole new level.

From the real men of *Dad's Army* to the Land Girls, **Gavin Mortimer** reveals the extraordinary efforts of millions of ordinary people, and just how essential they were...

NOW READ ON...

NEED TO KNOW

1 The Real Dad's Army p28
2 Defending Britain p30
3 Supply and Demand p32
4 Out of Danger p34
5 Keep Calm... p36

ALAMY X2

1

THE REAL DAD'S ARMY

The boys who would make Hitler think again...

According to Winston Churchill's memoirs, it was Anthony Eden, Secretary of State for War, who "Proposed to the cabinet on May 13" the idea of raising Local Defence Volunteers. Churchill, who had been appointed Prime Minister only three days earlier (on the same day in 1940 that the Germans invaded the Low Countries), approved the suggestion and, within a month, *The Times* reported that 500,000 volunteers had come forward.

On 15 June, Sir Edward Grigg, Under-Secretary of State for War, addressed the half a million volunteers in a radio broadcast, telling them: *"The time is close at hand when you can render Yeoman service to the country... you rank as soldiers, with a soldier's rights, and a soldier's obligations. The most important of your rights is to use armed force against the enemies of the country."*

Sir Edward then outlined the nature of their duties, explaining that along with "Observing and detaining suspicious characters on the roads and elsewhere", they were to assist in "Penning enemy troops which have landed in this country and of furnishing guards for the greater security of cities, factories, aerodromes and other important places."

Churchill kept a close eye on the development of the force, although he was troubled by their title, as he made clear to Eden in a letter dated 26 June. "I don't think much of the name 'Local Defence Volunteers'," he wrote. "The word 'local' is uninspiring... I think 'Home Guard' would be better."

So it became the Home Guard and, despite the name-change, the rush of volunteers continued. By the end of August 1940, its ranks had swelled to more than 1 million. Officially, recruits were aged between 17 and 65, although a blind eye was often turned if a 70-something volunteer was in reasonable shape.

Women were forbidden from joining the Home Guard, so Labour MP Edith Summerskill established her own such unit, calling it the Women's Home Defence League (WHD). For several years, the War Office resisted calls by Summerskill to allow the WHD to serve in the Home Guard until, in April 1943, they permitted women to work in non-combat roles, such as drivers and cooks.



MAKING DO...
A Home Guard soldier in a makeshift tank, 1940

In the tumultuous summer of 1940, when invasion appeared imminent, the main task of the Home Guard was, as recorded by Churchill, to man a line of anti-tank obstacles "running down the east centre of England and protecting London and the great industrial centres from inroads by armoured vehicles".

When it became clear the Germans had abandoned their invasion plan, the Home Guard (whose numbers now exceeded 1.5 million) continued to serve, manning anti-aircraft guns and patrolling beaches and remote coasts. It wasn't until December 1944 that they were stood down, by which time their German equivalent – the *Volkssturm* – was preparing to defend the Fatherland from invasion.

1,206
The number of men of the Home Guard who died in the course of duty during the war



GIRL GUARDS
Factory workers organise themselves to form their own, unofficial, defensive unit

ON THE LOOKOUT
Home Guard Sergeant W Read guards the south coast between Dover and Folkestone in 1941

MAN THE GUNS!
A Home Guard crew mans an anti-aircraft gun, November 1943

"BY THE END OF AUGUST 1940, THE HOME GUARD'S RANKS HAD SWELLED TO MORE THAN 1 MILLION"



DON'T PANIC!
The cast of BBC sitcom *Dad's Army* charge at the camera in 1970

DAD'S ARMY?

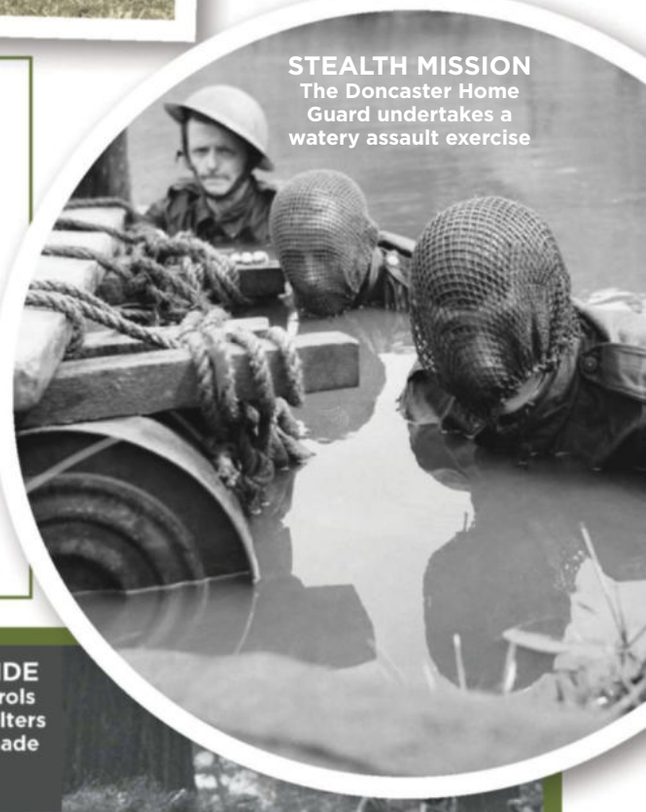
The Home Guard was immortalised by the BBC sitcom *Dad's Army*, but was it an accurate depiction? Leaving aside some of the more outlandish plots devised, naturally, for comic effect, the series did ring true with its rich diversity of characters and their enthusiastic amateurism using the bare essentials of equipment. Co-writer Jimmy Perry had served as a 17-year-old in his local unit and attributed the show's success to the fact it's "Based on real situations with real people".

SHORT SUPPLY

ARMED AND DANGEROUS?

It's just as well the Germans didn't invade in the early summer of 1940, because the majority of the Home Guard were armed with nothing more dangerous than broom handles. Bill Miles was a teenager when he joined his Essex Home Guard. All he received was an 'HG' arm band and a broom handle. "We marched about with our broom handles having to withstand the remarks of the watching public," he recalled. Some members of the Guard had shotguns, sporting rifles or outdated firearms from the Boer War or World War I, while others tied knives to the ends of their broom handles.

Churchill was well aware of the urgent need to equip the Home Guard – on 5 July 1940, he wrote to a fellow MP: "I am hoping to get a great many more rifles very soon, and to continue the process of arming the Home Guard." By the end of the month, rifles had begun arriving from the USA and Canada. Miles recalled: "Each man was issued with a five-shot Ross rifle and an 18-inch bayonet plus five rounds of ammo." A 'sticky bomb' was also invented, the intention being that its adhesive casing would stick to enemy vehicles as they passed.



STEALTH MISSION
The Doncaster Home Guard undertakes a watery assault exercise

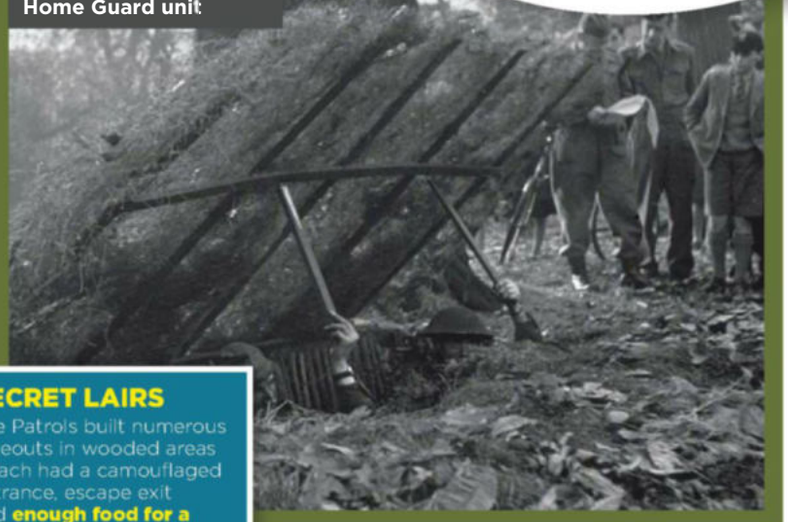
GUERRILLA ARMY

MEET THE RESISTANCE

In July 1940, when an invasion of Britain seemed inevitable, Winston Churchill ordered his war cabinet to raise a band of "guerrilla-type troops", whose role would be to attack German troops and armour as they advanced inland.

These 'Auxiliary Units' were led by Colonel Colin Gubbins, a veteran of World War I who had studied guerrilla tactics in Russia and Ireland. Informed that "the highest possible degree of secrecy must be maintained", Gubbins recruited approximately 3,500 men to the Operational Patrols (which varied in strength from four to eight men). Though stationed around Britain, the bulk were concentrated in Kent and Sussex, where it was believed the Germans would land.

The men – some of whom were farmers and poachers – were taught how to make bombs, fire machine guns and use knives to silently eliminate sentries. Gubbins also formed a 4,000-strong Special Duties Branch to act as the Patrols' "eyes and ears". The Branch was made up of local men and women who were schooled in surveillance techniques. Though the Germans never invaded, Britain's secret guerilla army wasn't disbanded until 1944.



HALF-HOUR HIDE
The top-secret patrols may have used shelters such as this one, made in 30 minutes by a Home Guard unit

SECRET LAIRS
The Patrols built numerous hideouts in wooded areas – each had a camouflaged entrance, escape exit and **enough food for a fortnight**. A few such hideouts **may still exist**

ALAMY X1, GETTY X6

2

DEFENDING BRITAIN

With invasion expected at any moment, the nation prepared itself for attack

The government began preparing for war as early as 1937, when the Air Raid Wardens' Service was formed. Indeed, by the time war broke out in September 1939, Britain's Civil Defence totalled around 1.5 million men and women. In the months before the outbreak of war, these volunteers had been busy at work, digging trench shelters in parks, building brick street shelters and sandbagging important buildings.

17
The percentage of the ARP warden force who were female – that's one in six

Following the invasion of the Low Countries by Germany in the early summer of 1940, the British government extended its defences from urban areas to the countryside and coasts. "Many people must have been bewildered by the innumerable activities all around them," wrote Winston Churchill in his memoirs. "*[But] they could understand the necessity for wiring and mining the beaches, the anti-tank obstacles at the defiles, the concrete pillboxes at the crossroads, the intrusions into their houses to fill an attic with sandbags, on to their golf-courses or most fertile fields and gardens to burrow out some wide anti-tank ditch.*"

As Britons worked furiously to erect barricades on the ground, others were focused on aerial defences and, throughout the summer of 1939, a chain of 18 radar stations was erected between Portsmouth and Aberdeen. Nearly 700 anti-aircraft guns were also installed, along with thousands of barrage balloons, while a blackout was introduced in the hours of darkness, to be rigorously enforced by the likes of Warden Hodges – the bête noire of Captain Mainwaring in *Dad's Army* – whose catchphrase was "Put that light out!"

The nightly blackout was one of many disruptions endured by Britons, along with the removal of signposts, milestones and railway station signs in order to confuse the enemy in the event of an invasion. Finally, the government issued every household with a pamphlet entitled: 'If the invader comes: what to do – and how to do it'. It contained seven golden rules, the last of which exhorted Britons to: "Think before you act. But think always of your country before you think of yourself."





MULTI-TASKING
The Morrison shelter, introduced in 1941, could be used as a table during the day and as a bed at night

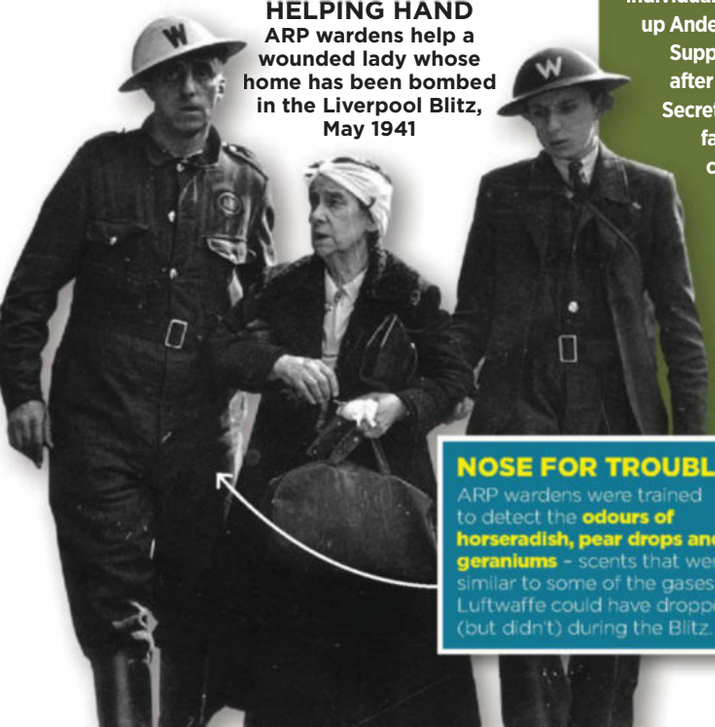
BOMBPROOF TAKE COVER

While shelters were built in public gardens and parks, individuals were encouraged to set up Anderson shelters in their yards or gardens. Supplied free by the government (and named after the Lord Privy Seal and future Home Secretary Sir John Anderson), these pre-fabricated, corrugated-steel chambers could accommodate up to six people.

At the start of 1941, the Morrison Shelter (named after the Minister of Home Security) was introduced. Designed for indoor use, these resembled a steel table beneath which lay a mattress surrounded by wire mesh. In the event of a house collapsing, these Morrisons would offer good protection against falling masonry.

Responsible for policing public shelters and ensuring the blackout was maintained were the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) crews. Recruited locally, its 150,000 members were mainly part-timers, working a maximum of 48 hours a month. Though often derided as busybodies, wardens played a vital role during air raids, co-ordinating assistance between the fire service, medical staff and search teams from their posts, usually located at street corners and main roads.

With their distinctive blue boiler suits and white helmets, wardens were a reassuring sight during the Blitz, when thousands of Londoners began sheltering in Underground stations. Among their equipment was a rattle, sounded in the event of a gas attack, and a bell, which signalled the all-clear. Perhaps the most important role of a warden was to log all incidents on an ARP/M1 form. These were then delivered – usually by a messenger on foot or by bicycle – to the Control Centre, allowing the relevant emergency service to attend to the damage in question.

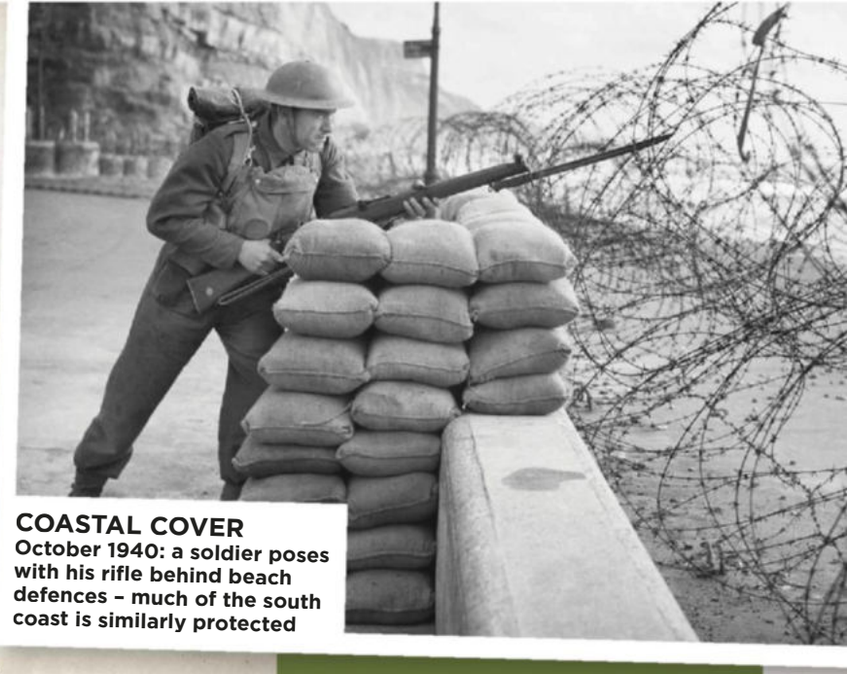


HELPING HAND
ARP wardens help a wounded lady whose home has been bombed in the Liverpool Blitz, May 1941

NOSE FOR TROUBLE
ARP wardens were trained to detect the **odours of horseradish, pear drops and geraniums** – scents that were similar to some of the gases the Luftwaffe could have dropped (but didn't) during the Blitz.

PREPARED FOR WAR
As early as 1938, barrage balloons are ready for use in Bedfordshire. Reaching a maximum height of 7,620 metres, they provide vital air-raid protection

"SIGNPOSTS, MILESTONES AND RAILWAY SIGNS WERE REMOVED TO CONFUSE THE ENEMY"



COASTAL COVER
October 1940: a soldier poses with his rifle behind beach defences – much of the south coast is similarly protected

LAND DEFENCES
WE WILL FIGHT THEM ON THE BEACHES...

The man initially tasked with organising the land defence of Britain was General Edmund 'Tiny' Ironside, whose orders from Churchill were to "Block off likely sections of the beaches with a good defence and to make secure all creeks and harbours." Ironside oversaw the erection of defences over a 400-mile stretch of coastline along the south and east of England, known as the 'Coastal Crust'. The west and north coasts were less of a problem, because Churchill was confident the Royal Navy would have the time to sink any German invasion fleet if it attempted to land on these distant shores.

Barbed wire, mines, scaffolding (to impede landing craft) and concrete anti-tank blocks were installed on beaches, while some 18,000 pillboxes sprang up across the country, each one capable of housing a machine-gun crew. Piers were dismantled, bridges wired with explosives ready for speedy demolition and, inland, more than 50 defensive 'stop lines' were constructed, usually incorporating natural barriers such as canals and rivers. These stop lines typically included pillboxes, field guns, anti-tank gun emplacements and anti-tank obstacles.

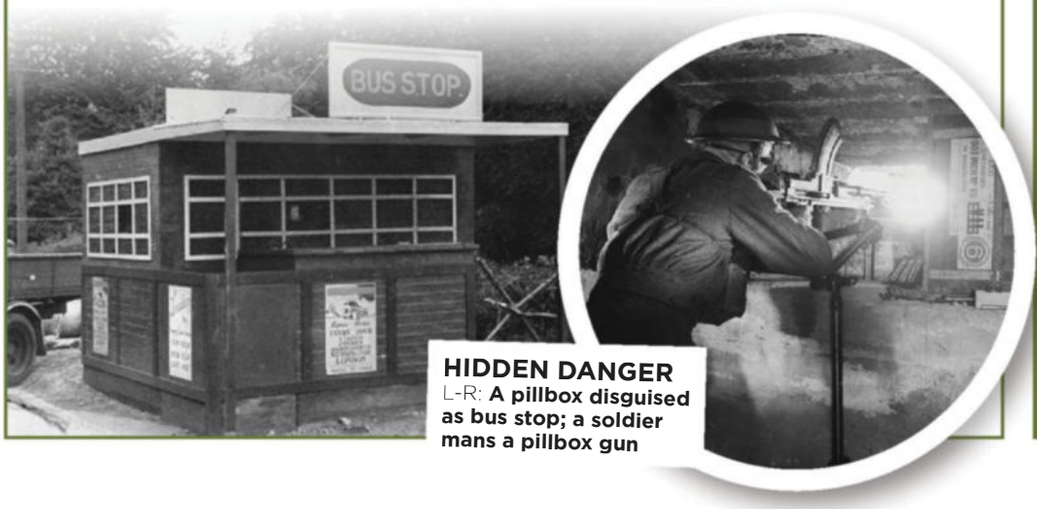
At Dover, two powerful naval guns were installed on the high ground overlooking the port – nicknamed 'Winnie' and 'Pooh' – and other smaller gun emplacements were hastily installed along the most vulnerable stretches of southern and eastern coastline.

While the guns have long since been removed, the concrete obstacles can still be seen today in places like Cuckmere Haven in East Sussex and Isle of Grain on the north Kent coast, while pillboxes remain scattered throughout the countryside.

THE ART OF CAMOUFLAGE
CLOAK AND DAGGER

Camouflage became an art in World War II, with all nations deploying imaginative means in an attempt to outwit the enemy. Britain was at the forefront of this innovation and, in preparing its defences for a German invasion, the talents of artists such as Roland Penrose and Julian Trevelyan were put to good use concealing pillboxes. While some were painted in colours to blend into their surrounds, others were disguised as railway signal boxes, haystacks and, in Westminster, a newspaper kiosk.

A Camouflage Development and Training Centre was established at Farnham Castle, and Penrose published 'Home Guard Manual of Camouflage' – a booklet instructing volunteers how to best use countryside to their advantage. "To an old soldier, the idea of hiding... and the use of deception may possibly be repulsive," wrote Penrose. "He may feel that it is not brave and not cricket. But that matters very little to our enemies, who are ruthlessly exploiting every means of deception at the present time to gain their spectacular victories."



HIDDEN DANGER
L-R: **A pillbox disguised as bus stop; a soldier mans a pillbox gun**

GETTY X6



PRECIOUS METAL
A London housewife makes a contribution during the first 'scrap week' sponsored by the Ministry of Supply, on 2 February 1940

BLACK MARKET
A salesman in Cutler Street – also known as Loot Alley – in the east end of London

DANDY STORY
The word 'spiv' was first used by **racecourse gangs** in the 1890s and is believed to derive from '**spiffing**', an old word meaning 'excellent' and also 'smartly dressed'.

WAR PAINT
A woman eyes up Black Market cosmetics at a street kiosk

3

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Making sure everyone got their fair share was no small undertaking...

One of the favourite characters in *Dad's Army* is Private Walker, the smooth-talking Londoner with a talent for securing the rarest of wartime items. At the time, men like Walker were called 'spivs'. They wore fine clothes and often carried suitcases inside which there might be anything from nylons to soaps to cigarettes. This was the Black Market and, though individual, charismatic traders like the fictional Private Walker dabbled in small amounts of illicit goods, they belonged to a much larger, darker world.

Well-organised criminal gangs posed a serious challenge to the rationing system. In 1941, for example, more than 2,000 meat carcasses were stolen from Liverpool docks while, in the same year, the *New Statesman* magazine reported on the rise of the Black Market in London under the heading 'Rations and Racketeers'. Some food on the Black Market was provided by farmers, who could make more of a profit from spivs than they could by selling to the Ministry of Food. Other items came from warehouses and depots, which were relatively easy to break into during the long hours of the blackout. To combat this underworld trade, the government appointed 900 inspectors and anyone caught dealing in contraband goods could be subject to a £500 fine and up to two years in prison.

6,000
The estimated number of pigs being raised in people's back gardens by 1945

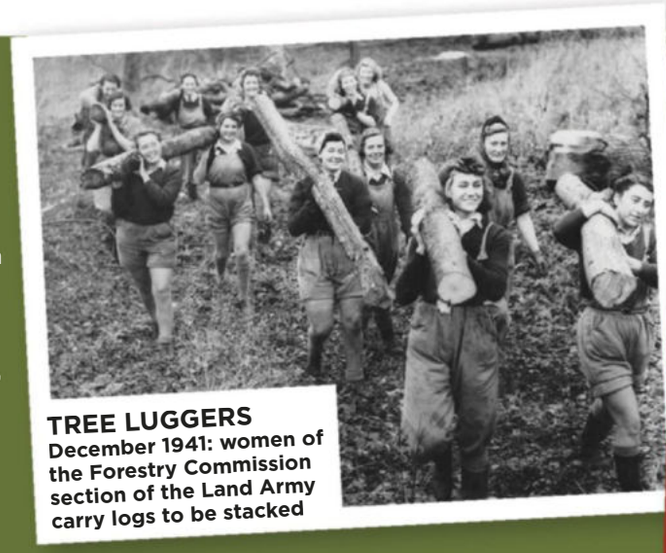
The most sought-after items on the Black Market were cigarettes and coffee, both of which were in short supply during the war. New, relatively available tobacco brands, such as Victory V cigarettes, were of a very poor quality; the real demand was for American smokes. And, for those unable or unwilling to turn to spivs for their caffeine fix, a substitute coffee could be improvised out of acorns, or a blend of roasted chicory and dandelion root.

It wasn't just food that was in short supply. So too were cooking utensils, as households were encouraged to donate the majority of their pots and pans to the 'Spitfire Fund' – the campaign to collect the country's valued goods, such as scrap metal, to raise funds for building fighter aircraft.

Hot water was also rationed to preserve the nation's fuel – households were limited to five inches of hot bath water per family per week. Similarly, coal was extremely precious and families were allowed only one gas-ring to cook their dinner.

THE GARDEN FRONT

DIG FOR VICTORY



TREE LUGGERS
December 1941: women of the Forestry Commission section of the Land Army carry logs to be stacked



SUCCESS STORY
As catchy slogans go, 'Dig For Victory' was one of the Home Front's biggest hits

Of all the ingenious slogans to arise from Britain's Home Front, arguably none had such resonance as 'Dig for Victory'. The campaign for Britons to grow their own food was not only a roaring success, it was also essential; 1930s Britain imported 75 per cent of its food but, by 1941, the amount arriving from overseas had fallen from 55 million tonnes to around 13 million. Britain faced a slow starvation caused by German U-boat attacks on supply ships, unless its people began growing their own food. "Use spades not ships!" was another slogan that captured the public's imagination, as did cartoon characters such as Dr Carrot and Potato Pete.

By 1942, approximately 10 million acres had been ploughed up, with sports fields, public gardens and factory courtyards all forming part of the 'Garden Front'. The Royals gave plenty of land to the cause too, including turning the rose beds at Buckingham Palace into onion patches.

With so many crops to cultivate, and with most of the male farm workers in the military, the government asked for female volunteers for the Women's Land Army (WLA). In December 1941, as the need to work the land became more urgent, conscription was introduced for women aged between 19 and 43 so that, by 1943, the Land Army was 80,000 strong. As well as gathering crops, the Land Army – dubbed the 'Land Girls' – also milked cows, ploughed, dug ditches and raised chickens.

The WLA was disbanded in 1950 and, during wartime, they had undertaken an important role on the Home Front, as its members recognised in their official song:

"Back to the land, we must all lend a hand.
To the farms and the fields we must go.
There's a job to be done,
Though we can't fire a gun,
We can still do our bit with the hoe."

MAKE DO AND MEND

ON THE RATION

On 8 July 1940, one Londoner, Vere Hodgson, wrote in her diary: "Listened to the news and heard the bombshell about tea! Two ounces per head, per week!" The war had clearly begun to bite for Hodgson – a result of the German submarine attacks on merchant vessels bringing food, and tea, to Britain from overseas.

By the end of the year, rationing – introduced by the Ministry of Food on 8 January 1940 – limited a Briton's typical weekly allowance to: one fresh egg; 4oz margarine and bacon; 2oz butter and tea; 1oz cheese; and 8oz sugar. Meat was allocated according to price and, as the war wore on, more food was restricted, including sweets.

To ensure the system was fair, Britons were issued with ration books with coupons that were exchanged for their weekly allowance of food. Victory, in August 1945, didn't bring a close to the food shortages though; it wasn't until 1954 that meat rationing finally ended.

In June 1941, clothes also went on the ration, and was soon followed by other day-to-day items such as soap. Fashion rationing was based on a 'points' system depending on the amount of labour and material required for the different items. As a result Britons were encouraged to 'Make-do and Mend', with magazines such as *Home Front Fashions* instructing people how to recycle curtains and sheets into clothes.



FUEL SHORTAGE
Petrol was also rationed, as a squadron of 12 Spitfire fighters on a **typical patrol** over the British skies ate up **4,500 litres of petrol**. That was the same as a 1940s car would need in 21 years.

EKE IT OUT
L-R: **The original make do and mend poster; Even Winston Churchill had a ration book**

COUPON CLIPPING
A woman in war-time London has coupons cut from her ration book, after buying her butter and sugar for the week

GETTY X8

4

OUT OF DANGER

Children and the vulnerable were moved out of cities on a massive scale

The day war was declared, Britain began evacuating its children from London and other industrial cities. For two years – since the formation of the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) in 1937 – the government had been planning for such an eventuality, aware that the German air force would target British cities. Instrumental in helping with the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of children was the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS). Formed in 1938 and led by the Lady Stella Reading, the WVS was composed mainly of middle-aged women. It played an enormous role in the evacuation operation, which was codenamed Pied Piper, after the evil character in the German folk story.

For the children (and arguably to a lesser extent, the parents), evacuation was traumatic. Packed off on trains to often faraway and remote rural locations, they took with them just one suitcase and a gas mask slung over their shoulder. Children were usually accompanied by their schoolteacher until arrival at their destination, when the evacuees were assembled in the village hall and allocated to local families. While many volunteered to take in city children, some families had been ordered by the authorities to accept them. Children were distributed in a seemingly cruel and arbitrary fashion, with siblings sometimes separated. The local children would also often tease and bully their city rivals.

13,000
The number of pregnant women who were evacuated during the war

Parents could write and send small parcels to their children but, such were the separation pains felt by many that, when Nazi bombers hadn't appeared by early spring of 1940, the children started returning home. This period was called the 'Phoney War' – it ended abruptly in May that year, when the Germans invaded the Low Countries. London panicked and, in the space of six days, 180 trains left the capital for the country, carrying some 180,000 children.

In July 1940, Britain began evacuating children to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, but this programme was scrapped in September 1940, after one evacuation ship was torpedoed by a German submarine en route to Canada with the loss of 77 children.

In total, some 3 million people were evacuated during the six years of war. The peak month was February 1941, when the London Blitz was at its height but, with the end of the regular air raids in May that year, the figures gradually began to decrease as children returned to their families.



MASS EVACUATION
In one week in January 1941, 2,000 expectant mothers and children leave London

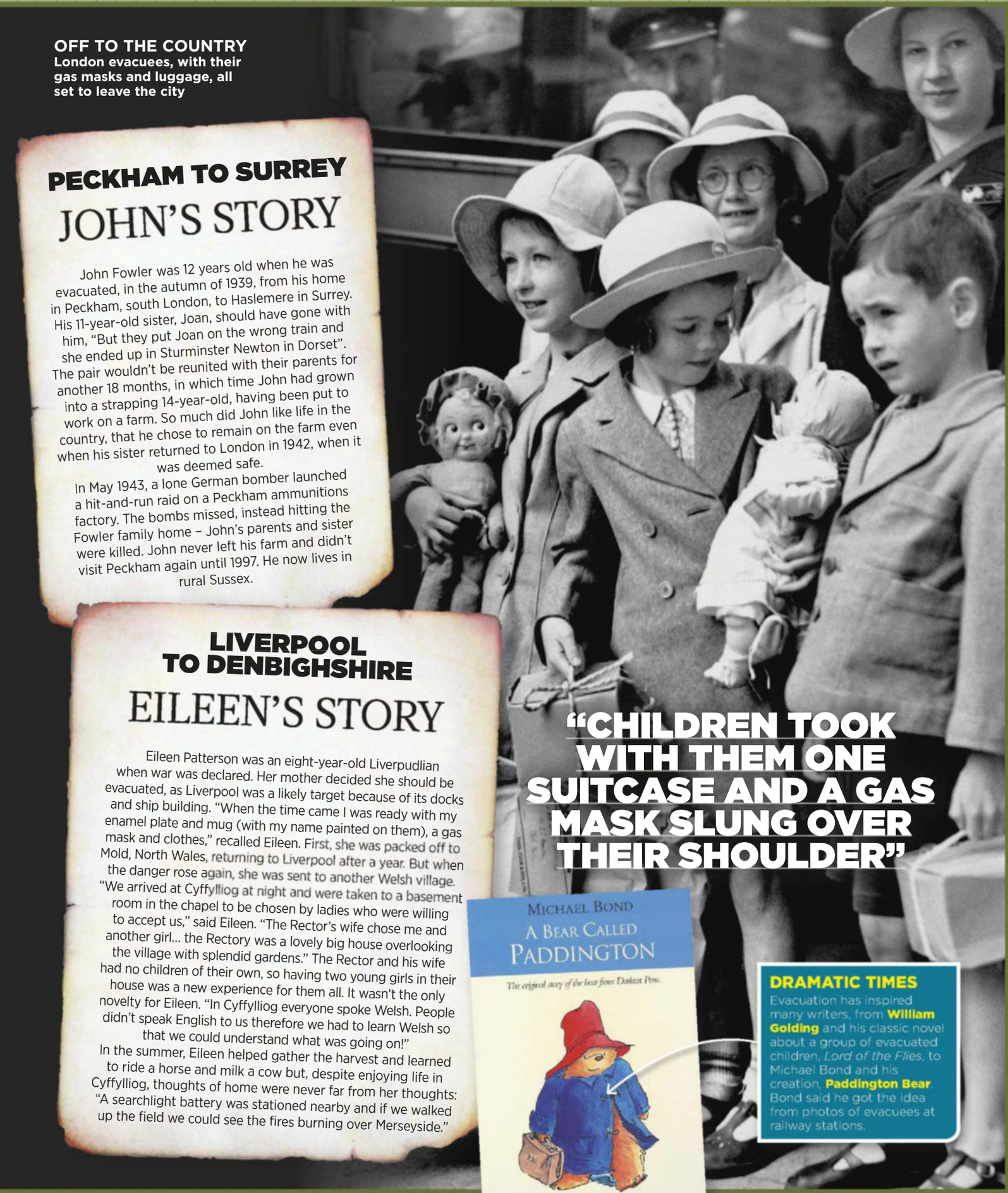


THE BABIES ON THE BUS
Some of London's infant evacuees are boarded onto a special bus made for the WVS



GET TO SAFETY
Many evacuees were keen to stay in the city, so a campaign was launched to dissuade them





OFF TO THE COUNTRY
London evacuees, with their gas masks and luggage, all set to leave the city

PECKHAM TO SURREY
JOHN'S STORY

John Fowler was 12 years old when he was evacuated, in the autumn of 1939, from his home in Peckham, south London, to Haslemere in Surrey. His 11-year-old sister, Joan, should have gone with him, "But they put Joan on the wrong train and she ended up in Sturminster Newton in Dorset". The pair wouldn't be reunited with their parents for another 18 months, in which time John had grown into a strapping 14-year-old, having been put to work on a farm. So much did John like life in the country, that he chose to remain on the farm even when his sister returned to London in 1942, when it was deemed safe.

In May 1943, a lone German bomber launched a hit-and-run raid on a Peckham ammunitions factory. The bombs missed, instead hitting the Fowler family home – John's parents and sister were killed. John never left his farm and didn't visit Peckham again until 1997. He now lives in rural Sussex.

LIVERPOOL TO DENBIGHSHIRE
EILEEN'S STORY

Eileen Patterson was an eight-year-old Liverpudlian when war was declared. Her mother decided she should be evacuated, as Liverpool was a likely target because of its docks and ship building. "When the time came I was ready with my enamel plate and mug (with my name painted on them), a gas mask and clothes," recalled Eileen. First, she was packed off to Mold, North Wales, returning to Liverpool after a year. But when the danger rose again, she was sent to another Welsh village. "We arrived at Cyffylliog at night and were taken to a basement room in the chapel to be chosen by ladies who were willing to accept us," said Eileen. "The Rector's wife chose me and another girl... the Rectory was a lovely big house overlooking the village with splendid gardens." The Rector and his wife had no children of their own, so having two young girls in their house was a new experience for them all. It wasn't the only novelty for Eileen. "In Cyffylliog everyone spoke Welsh. People didn't speak English to us therefore we had to learn Welsh so that we could understand what was going on!"

In the summer, Eileen helped gather the harvest and learned to ride a horse and milk a cow but, despite enjoying life in Cyffylliog, thoughts of home were never far from her thoughts: "A searchlight battery was stationed nearby and if we walked up the field we could see the fires burning over Merseyside."

"CHILDREN TOOK WITH THEM ONE SUITCASE AND A GAS MASK SLUNG OVER THEIR SHOULDER"

DRAMATIC TIMES
Evacuation has inspired many writers, from **William Golding** and his classic novel about a group of evacuated children, *Lord of the Flies*, to Michael Bond and his creation, **Paddington Bear**. Bond said he got the idea from photos of evacuees at railway stations.

ALAMY X1, GETTY X3, PRESS ASSOCIATION X1

5

KEEP CALM...

Arguably, the most important task on the Home Front was keeping people's spirits up

Britain formed the Ministry of Information (MOI) on 4 September 1939, one day after the declaration of war. The MOI went through three heads in quick succession before Brendan Bracken was appointed Minister in July 1941. A former newspaper proprietor, Irish-born Bracken had the golden touch with the public, and he remained in his post until the end of the war.

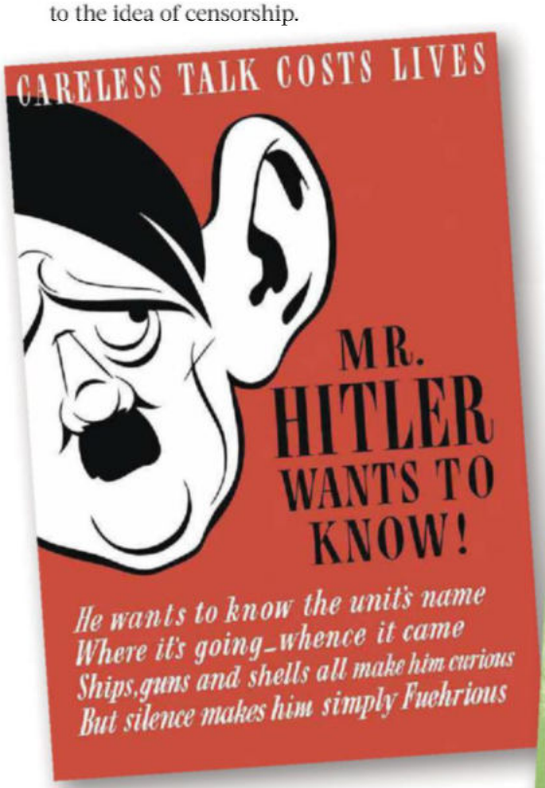
His talents were in great demand that summer – a grim period for Britain, after Germany quickly captured Crete, Greece and Yugoslavia one after the other. Having endured nine months of the Blitz, and with rationing well underway, Britain's morale was at a dangerously low ebb.

Bracken's remit on taking office was three-fold: news and press censorship; home publicity; and overseas publicity in Allied and neutral countries. One of his most immediate concerns was to improve relations with the press, which had reacted with hostility to the idea of censorship.

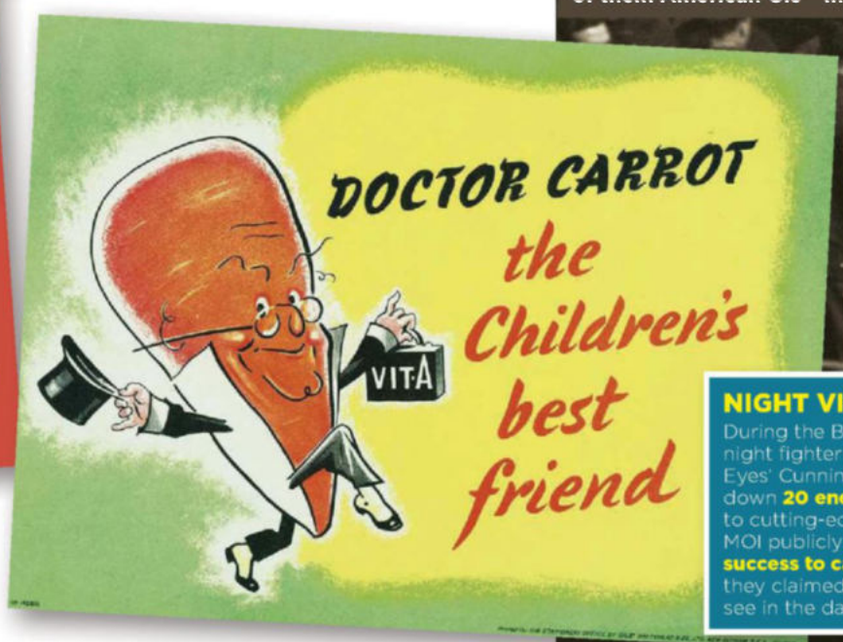
As relations with the BBC and Fleet Street began to improve, Bracken launched an intensive propaganda campaign to lift the nation's spirits. Talented artists and writers (including novelist George Orwell and cartoonist Carl Giles) joined the MOI and, in 1942, a total of £4 million was spent on publicity – a third more than the previous year. Some of it funded films, such as *In Which We Serve*, starring Noel Coward, while £120,000 was spent on posters, art and exhibitions. The MOI also established the Home Intelligence Division, to gauge the public's reaction to wartime events and devise its response accordingly.

While news from the front was always censored, the MOI encouraged newspapers to report on the derring-do of its troops, with articles appearing about the early SAS raids in the desert and the exploits of the RAF pilots.

Yet it is the work on the Home Front for which the MOI is best remembered, from its 'Dig For Victory' campaign to the 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' warning (reminding people enemy spies could be listening) to its 'Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases', health drive. There were also the cartoon characters such as Dr Carrot, Colonel Stirrup Pump and Private Scrap, all designed to entertain, amuse but, above all, educate the British public.



TAKE NOTICE
Posters issued by the MOI were made memorable with simple rhymes, amusing puns and friendly characters







PITCH PERFECT
TOP: **The England v Scotland match at Wembley Stadium in February 1944 drew an impressive crowd**
ABOVE: **Vera Lynn is presented with a bouquet while visiting a munitions factory in 1941**
MAIN: **London's Rainbow Corner club is dizzy with dancers – many of them American GIs – in 1944**



NIGHT VISION
During the Blitz, the RAF's top night fighter was John 'Cat's Eyes' Cunningham. He shot down **20 enemy planes** thanks to cutting-edge radar, but the MOI publicly **attributed his success to carrots**, which – they claimed – allowed him to see in the dark.

ALAMY X1, GETTY X5, KOBAL X1

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

World War II was the first time conflict had come to the Home Front in Britain on a large scale. The heavy German raids produced a 'Here Today, Gone Tomorrow' philosophy among many civilians, particularly women, a lot of whom were working for the first time in jobs hitherto undertaken by men. The dance halls thrived, as did cinemas and theatres. The government, in tandem with film-makers, exploited the popularity of cinemas to release a series of patriotic films to boost public morale. These included the MOI-funded *In Which We Serve*, about the survivors of a sunk destroyer, *The Day Will Dawn*, about the Norwegian resistance, and a lavish production of *Henry V* with Laurence Oliver in the lead.

Music also rallied civilians on the Home Front. Singers – like Vera Lynn, with her hit songs *We'll Meet Again* and *The White Cliffs of Dover* – became household names. As few homes possessed a television set, radio was the most popular medium and Lynn's weekly *Sincerely Yours* show was a smash hit.

With so many sportsmen away on active service, sport suffered during the war, with the professional football and cricket leagues suspended for the duration. Nonetheless, regional football leagues continued and war-time internationals drew large crowds – indeed, 133,000 fans headed to Glasgow's Hampden Park to watch England beat Scotland 3-2 in 1944. But not everyone was impressed. Labour MP Emanuel Shinwell criticised football fans in 1941, saying: "I am no killjoy but... think of the petrol consumed, the transport used and the services required for all the so-called recreation and ask yourselves if we've really organised our resources for war."







ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH
Sir Laurence Oliver starred in and directed *Henry V* (1944)

THE FORCES' SWEETHEART
While visiting **British troops in Burma** in 1942, Vera gave a make-do-and-mend style performance – her mic was powered by searchlight batteries, while her **pianist was armed with a pistol**.



THE SHOW MUST GO ON
Dancers perform their routine in gas masks, February 1940



"HAVING ENDURED NINE MONTHS OF THE BLITZ BRITAIN'S MORALE WAS AT A DANGEROUSLY LOW EBB"

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Kubbet Duris, Gertrude Bell on horseback in foreground A_340 © Gertrude Bell Archive, Newcastle University

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ALWAYS LEARNING PEARSON



HITLER VS BRITAIN

From admiration and respect to fierce foe, how did the Führer's relationship with Britain take such a bitter turn? **Gavin Mortimer** explains all...

EYES ON THE PRIZE
August 1940: Hitler looks across the Channel from Calais, at what he believes will be his next conquest

GETTY X2



Neville Chamberlain had the measure of Adolf Hitler. Or so the British Prime Minister thought. In Chamberlain's eyes, the Nazi leader was "The commonest little dog I have ever seen". That was how he described Hitler to his cabinet shortly after returning from Munich in September 1938.

For a fortnight, the leaders of Britain, Germany, Italy and France discussed the future of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland – the German-speaking region that the Führer was determined to annex.

After the first conference with Hitler, Chamberlain flew back to Britain, confident that Germany would not invade Czechoslovakia. The Führer had promised that self-determination for the Sudeten Germans would suffice and, as Chamberlain confided to his sister, "I got the impression that here was a man who could be relied upon when he had given his word."

But Hitler reneged on his promise to sign a non-aggression pact, and another conference was hastily summoned. Desperate to avoid war, Chamberlain and the French Premier, Edouard Daladier, signed the Munich Agreement, in which the Czechoslovakian government – not even invited to the talks – was forced to hand over the Sudetenland to Germany. In return, Hitler would not attack the rest of Czechoslovakia.

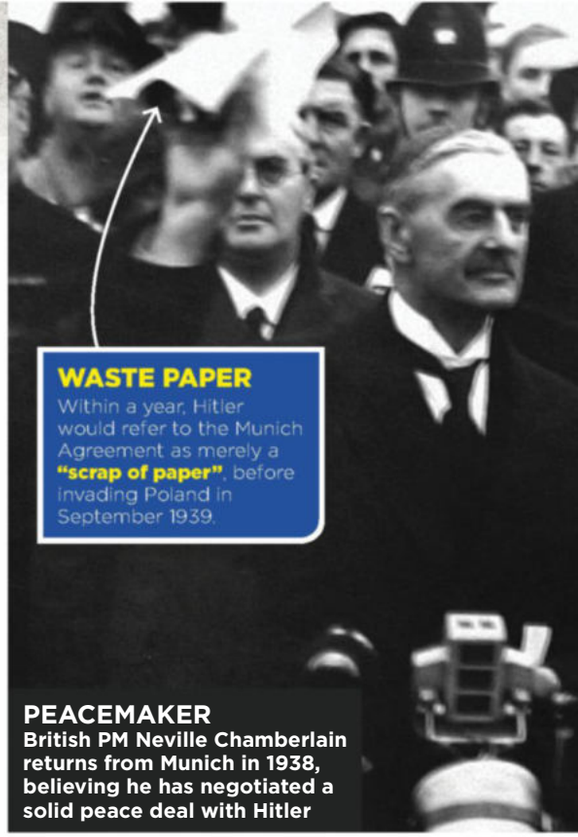
Chamberlain returned to Britain on 30 September a hero, waving a copy of the Agreement as he emerged from his aeroplane at London Heston's airport. "Peace for our time," he declared.

Hitler had wanted war with the Czechs and, to that end, the German leader was disappointed with the Agreement. Nonetheless, the conference with Britain and France had been instructive. "Our enemies are little worms," he reflected. "I saw them in Munich."

GRUDGING RESPECT

Two decades earlier, Hitler's regard for the British Empire and its army had been one of deep – if grudging – respect. In November 1918, he heard news of the World War I armistice from his hospital bed in Pasewalk, Germany, where he was recovering from being gassed in the trenches. It was a devastating blow, what Hitler called "The greatest villainy of the century", and he blamed Germany's Marxists and Jews for selling out its soldiers.

On leaving hospital, the 30-year-old Hitler settled in Munich and cultivated his hatred of the Jews and the Bolsheviks. He began speaking at public events, usually small backrooms in beer halls, where many of the audience were too drunk to understand his tirades. Over time, however, his audiences increased.



WASTE PAPER
Within a year, Hitler would refer to the Munich Agreement as merely a **"scrap of paper"**, before invading Poland in September 1939.

PEACEMAKER
British PM Neville Chamberlain returns from Munich in 1938, believing he has negotiated a solid peace deal with Hitler

"THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTIVE. 'OUR ENEMIES ARE LITTLE WORMS,' HITLER REFLECTED"

MOSLEY: BRITAIN'S HITLER?

The leader of Blighty's own Fascist movement

In many ways, Sir Oswald Mosley could have stepped out of a John Buchan novel. Tall, good-looking, urbane and a dashing war hero, he was also charismatic and clever. Not surprisingly, when Mosley embarked on a political career after World War I, he was marked down a high flier. Elected Conservative MP for Harrow in 1918 at the age of 22, he was a natural orator, with one newspaper praising his "human sympathies, courage and brains".

But, in the early 1920s, Mosley became estranged from the Tories, first becoming an independent MP and then crossing to the Labour Party (and becoming MP for Smethwick in Staffordshire). With unemployment rising and living conditions for the poor deteriorating, Mosley grew frustrated with what he saw as a lack of will within his party to tackle the jobs crisis, as he proposed. So, in 1931, Mosley left Labour and formed the New Party – a move that was to have dramatic consequences for the country.

Though Hitler had yet to assume power in Germany, the fascist Benito Mussolini had transformed Italy into a one-party dictatorship after becoming Prime Minister in 1922. Mosley visited Italy a decade later and embraced Mussolini's ideology and methods.

In October 1932, Mosley renamed his party the British Union of Fascists, and launched his aims in a book entitled *The Greater Britain*. Aware of the disdain most Brits felt for extremists of any guise, Mosley told his compatriots that his brand of the political system would be reassuringly British: "Fascism, as we understand it, is not a creed of personal Dictatorship in the continental manner." Mosley declared that his enemies in Britain were "the Old Gang government" as well as "organisations of old women, tea fights and committees".

Avowedly anti-Communist, Mosley was arguably not anti-Semitic, although when, in October 1936, he and his fellow fascists attempted to march through the predominantly Jewish East End, they were stopped in what became known as the Battle of Cable Street.

The violence witnessed in Cable Street, and the deteriorating situation with Hitler (whom Mosley met just twice), resulted in a drop in support for Mosley's party, whose membership never exceeded more than around 50,000. An advocate of a negotiated peace settlement with the Nazis, Mosley was arrested in May 1940 and spent the rest of the war either in prison or under house arrest. He died in Paris in 1980.





GETTY X5



ON THE CIRCUIT
Adolf Hitler speaks to a modest-but-enthusiastic crowd, c1925

9
The number of months Hitler spent in jail out of a five-year sentence. He was found guilty of treason in 1924

Here was someone who spoke for the man in the street, the man who had spent four years at the front, only to return home to find Germany decadent and in danger from communists. Hitler explained with fierce eloquence how he would rebuild the Fatherland. Hitler envisioned a mighty German empire, one that would ultimately overshadow Britain's, whose example he so admired.

The British Empire had invested in the small island power, prestige and prosperity. Hitler was particularly impressed with the way Britain controlled India's 400 million inhabitants, and he dreamed of Germany ruling Russia in a similar fashion. "What India was for England, the eastern territory will be for us," he stated.

As early as 1922, Hitler began thinking about an alliance with Great Britain. He hated the Russians, despised the French, but believed he could do business with the British. When he became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, Hitler made overtures to Britain about an alliance, and, in 1935, the two countries signed the Anglo-German Naval Agreement.



BLACKSHIRTS
LEFT: **Italian PM Benito Mussolini (left) and Mosley meet in 1932** BELOW: **The locals stand up to Mosley's party in London's Battle of Cable Street, 1936**

THE KING'S FAVOUR

Relations improved further in 1936, following the accession of King Edward VII, reputed to admire much about Hitler. That summer, Joachim von Ribbentrop arrived in London as Ambassador. He would, Hitler hoped, lead Britain to join his Anti-Comintern pact against international communism.

But Hitler's plans began to unravel when, in December 1936, the King abdicated. Von Ribbentrop led his Führer to believe that Edward had been removed by an alliance of Jews, Freemasons and powerful politicians, and Hitler started to move away from Britain and towards Italy in seeking a European ally.

By the time the Munich Agreement was signed, Hitler's feelings for the British had turned from respect to disdain. They were, as he told his generals in 1939, "worms", only too ready to appease him in return for peace in Europe.

Yet the "worms" declared war on Germany on 3 September that year, two days after Hitler had sent his troops into Poland. The Führer was taken by surprise. "What now?" he angrily demanded of von Ribbentrop when he heard the news.

His diffidence soon disappeared. The rapid conquest of Poland

HITLER IN LIVERPOOL

Did the Führer stay in the city of the Liver Bird?

Did you know Adolf Hitler lived in Liverpool? Yes, the most infamous figure of the 20th century spent several months in 1912-13 residing with his half-brother, Alois, in Upper Stanhope Street, Toxteth. At least, that's the claim made by Bridget Hitler – the Irish wife of Alois – in her book written at the height of the Nazi leader's fame.

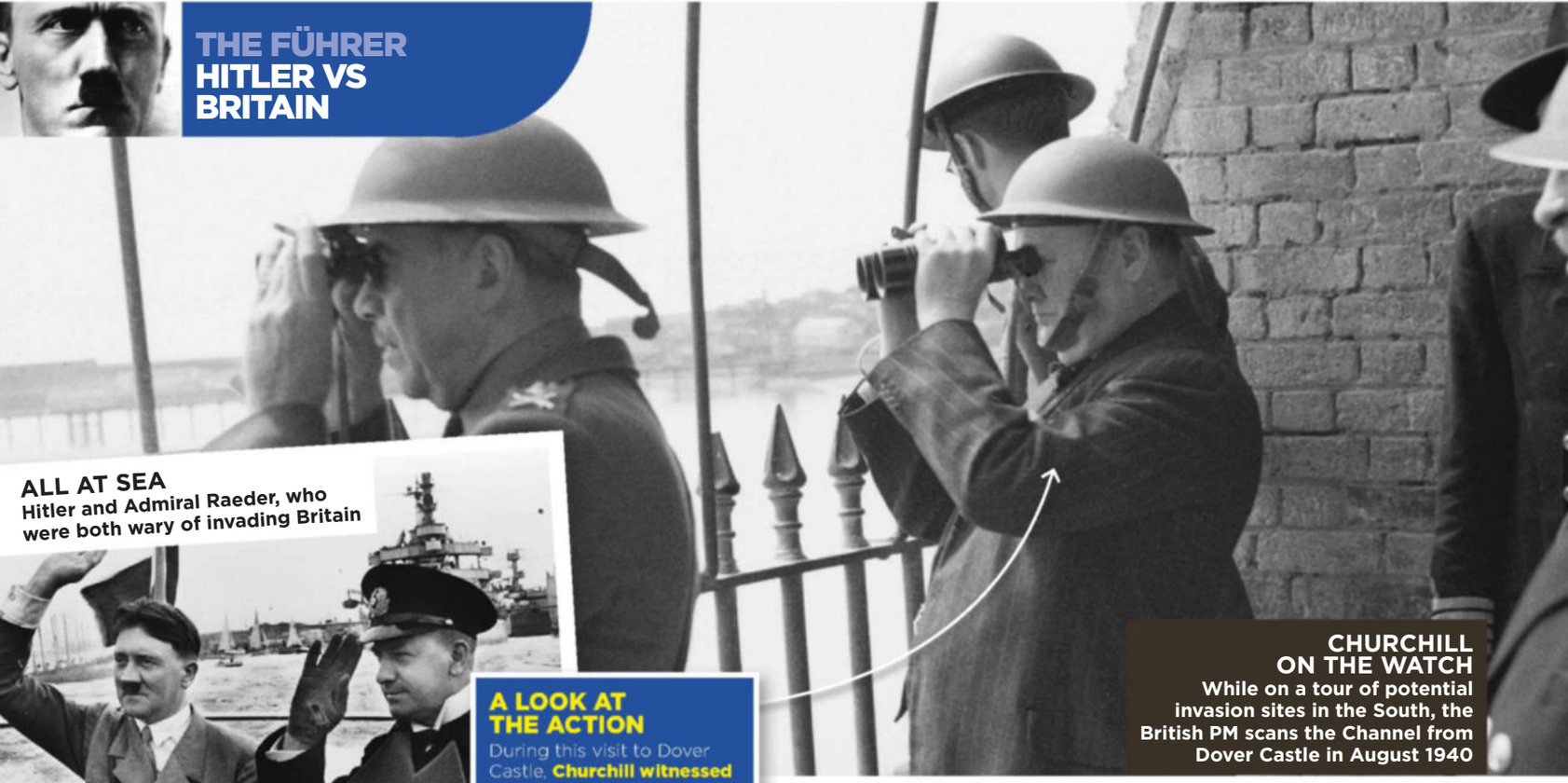
Trouble is, there is no evidence to corroborate her statement. Bridget's unpublished manuscript lay forgotten until the 1970s, when it was unearthed by historian Robert Payne during his research for a book on Hitler. He went public with the astonishing claim that Hitler had fled to England to avoid being drafted into the Austrian army. It was soon taken as gospel, even though no one was able to produce any hard evidence in support of the matter.

Most Hitler historians have rubbished the idea and, in his seminal biography on the Führer, Ian Kershaw doesn't even mention the rumour, instead placing Hitler in Vienna at this time, an aimless drifter whose resentment against the Jews was taking root.

It's believed Bridget was helped in writing her memoirs by her son, William (Hitler's nephew) and therein lies a story that is not only interesting – but true! Born in Liverpool in 1911, Willy moved to Germany in the 1930s but left in 1939 for a lecture tour of the USA to capitalise on the notoriety of the family name. Once in the States he applied for citizenship and, in 1944, was authorised to enlist in the US Navy. Willy Hitler died in New York in 1987.



THE ALLIED HITLER
Bridget Hitler and her son William, who was personally cleared for US service by FBI Director, J Edgar Hoover, in 1944



CHURCHILL ON THE WATCH
While on a tour of potential invasion sites in the South, the British PM scans the Channel from Dover Castle in August 1940

ALL AT SEA
Hitler and Admiral Raeder, who were both wary of invading Britain

A LOOK AT THE ACTION
During this visit to Dover Castle, **Churchill witnessed an air battle** with German bombers. According to his bodyguard, **the PM was "mesmerised"** by the sight.

emboldened Hitler and he began to draft plans for the invasion of western Europe, his goal: "To bring England to its knees; to destroy France."

Initially, Hitler envisaged invading the Low Countries in the middle of November. His generals said it wouldn't be possible, so the attack on the West was postponed until spring 1940. Throughout the winter of 1939–40 Hitler's attitude towards Britain hardened. Like the spurned lover, he desired revenge. "The English will have to learn the hard way," he declared.

Not that he intended to inflict on the British the humiliation that would be heaped on the Low Countries following their conquest. Belgium and the Netherlands would be incorporated into a new Germany and the provinces of France would be repopulated with Germans.

He had no such outlandish plans for Britain. He just wanted this warrior nation defeated so that it posed no threat to the expansion of the Third Reich.

That was why Hitler, in the words of one of his generals in the summer of 1940, was "greatly puzzled" by Great Britain. Why wouldn't it admit defeat? France and the Low Countries had been overrun in a matter of weeks, leaving the UK alone.

A PUGNACIOUS FOE

The problem for the Führer was that Neville Chamberlain was no longer Prime Minister. He had been replaced, on 10 May, by Winston Churchill – an altogether more pugnacious foe. In a speech made on 18 June, Churchill warned his people that the battle for Britain was imminent, upon which "depends the survival of Christian civilisation".

Away from his public rhetoric, Churchill discussed, with his cabinet, Britain's response to any possible peace offer from Hitler. "He was in a position to offer the most tempting terms," wrote Churchill in his memoirs. "To those who like myself had studied his moves it did not seem impossible that he would consent to leave Britain and her Empire and Fleet intact, and make a peace which would have secured him that free hand in the East [Soviet Union] of which Ribbentrop had talked to me in 1937."

On 16 July, Hitler issued Directive No 16, under the heading 'Preparations for a Landing Operation against England'. It included in its preamble: "The aim of this operation is to exclude the English motherland as a basis for the continuation of the war against Germany, and, if it should be necessary, to occupy it completely." In secret files released after the war, a British informant told the Foreign Office that: "The Germans think King George will abdicate during the attack on London." Hitler would then return Edward VII to the throne. Although it was rumoured he intended to make Oxford the new seat of power, there is scant evidence to back this claim beyond the fact the city wasn't targeted by the Luftwaffe – though, in likelihood, that was only because it wasn't of industrial importance to the British war effort.

Compared to some of Hitler's previous bellicose declarations, Directive No 16 was hardly a call to crush the British without mercy. Even in ordering the development of Operation Sea Lion – the code name for Germany's invasion of Britain – the Führer displayed a marked reluctance to undertake a full-scale invasion, a feeling shared by many of his military leaders.

He still held out hope Britain would come to its senses and, three days after issuing the Directive, Hitler addressed the Reichstag and issued to Britain his "last appeal for reason". Agree to my peace terms, he demanded – but the British rejected his entreaties.

Hitler thus ordered that "preparations for the entire operation must be completed by mid-August", a timescale that was beyond the scope of the German navy. Its head, Admiral Raeder, informed Hitler that 15 September was a more realistic launch date, although he favoured postponing until the following May. For a start, the notorious Channel tides and currents would be less capricious in early summer.

The date of the invasion wasn't the only bone of contention. As Churchill discovered after the war, a "vehement controversy, conducted with no little asperity, arose in the German Staffs". The source of the friction was where the invasion should land. The German army demanded several landings along the southern coast from Ramsgate in the north to Lyme Regis in the west – a stretch of coastline

"AGREE TO PEACE, HITLER DEMANDED – BUT THE BRITISH REJECTED HIS ENTREATIES"

AKG X1, GETTY X4

OCCUPIED BRITAIN

The only pieces of British territory occupied by the Germans were the Channel Islands...

In the summer of 1939, few Channel Islanders believed that, even if Britain and Germany did go to war, it would affect them. Jersey, the largest of the islands, even promoted itself as the "ideal wartime holiday resort", anticipating hordes of visitors from the British mainland looking for a break from hostilities. Such dreams were violently shattered on 28 June 1940, when a German air raid on Sark, Guernsey and Jersey left 44 islanders dead.

A little over a fortnight earlier, the British had decided not to defend the islands from any German attack, believing it an waste of men and machinery. After all, agreed the War Cabinet, the Channel Islands held no strategic importance.

Instead, between 21 and 23 June, the government evacuated some 30,000 islanders to Britain, roughly one third of the entire population. A week later, the Germans invaded Guernsey. Within three days the island, along with Jersey, Sark and Alderney, had officially surrendered.

Over the next five years, the remaining islanders suffered a series of hardships and humiliations, starting with the promulgation of anti-Semitic laws in the parliaments on 27 September 1940 – in 1942 three Jewish women were deported and subsequently killed in Auschwitz.

Bread rationing was introduced, a curfew was imposed, identity cards were obligatory, civilian radios were banned, teaching German in schools was made compulsory and, in September 1942, more than 2,000 islanders were deported to Germany for forced labour.

Armed resistance on the Channel Islands was virtually non-existent but, in May 1942, the Guernsey Underground News Service was established. Each day for nearly two years, it published a leaflet summarising the war news as heard on the BBC (often listened to on homemade wirelesses) until February 1944, when the five members were betrayed by an informer. Two of the five never returned from captivity.

Collaboration was not uncommon during the Occupation, although few were as shameless as Victor Carey, the Bailiff of Guernsey who described British soldiers as "enemy forces" in the local newspaper. He also offered a reward of £25 to anyone who could identify those islanders responsible for writing 'V for Victory' signs on buildings.

Though the liberation of France began on D-Day, on 6 June 1944, it wasn't until 9 May 1945 that the Germans finally surrendered the Channel Islands.



'ALLO 'ALLO 'ALLO!
Guernsey Constable Eugenine Le Lievre directs a German soldier in September 1940



LIVING WITH THE ENEMY
The houses of 'collaborators' were often marked with swastikas by the resistance



BRASS PARADE
A Nazi military band marches through Guernsey, passing a branch of Lloyds Bank

HERD ENOUGH

After the RAF left, Guernsey's farmers used the airfield for cattle pasture. The first Nazis to land were **greeted by a chap milking his cows** and one of the first commands the invaders gave was to order the **runway be cleared of bovines**.

covering more than 200 miles. The first wave of invaders would number 100,000, followed by a second wave of approximately 160,000 troops. Brighton was singled out as the town most likely to offer the sternest resistance and four divisions were detailed to land on its beaches. Additionally, 52 anti-aircraft batteries would be transported in the first wave, to offer protection for the second wave of invaders. Meanwhile, the British believed the "main danger" was posed by the Dutch and German harbours, and that consequently any invasion fleet would head across the North Sea to land on the east coast.

DIVISION IN THE RANKS

According to Churchill's memoirs, Admiral Raeder considered his army's proposals fantastical, informing their leaders that "nothing like so large or rapid a movement was possible". The area of landings was too broad, even if the German Luftwaffe achieved air supremacy in the lead up to the invasion. The Channel, he informed his army and Luftwaffe counterparts, was heavily mined and the Royal Navy possessed a stronger fleet than his own.

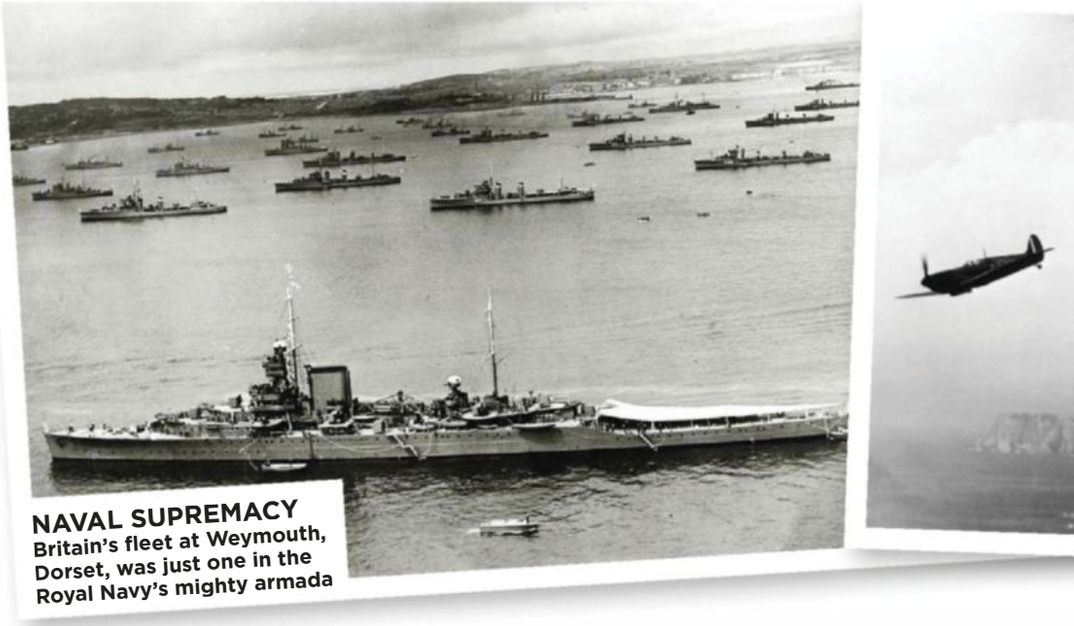
Raeder's reservations were well-justified. As Churchill noted on 10 July: "The Admiralty have over a thousand armed patrolling vessels, of which two or three hundred are always at sea... behind these patrolling craft are the flotillas of destroyers, of which forty destroyers are now disposed between the Humber and Portsmouth, the bulk being in the narrowest waters."

Raeder also pointed out that transporting 160,000 men and their equipment would require 2 million tons of shipping, and where would he find that? He favoured concentrating the landing to the Strait of Dover, a proposal met with derision by the army. "I might just as well put the troops that have been landed straight through the sausage machine," retorted General Franz Halder, the army's Chief of General Staff, who believed it would be suicide to land so many troops on such a narrow front.

Halder, too, was correct to be concerned. Though Churchill, who expected any invasion fleet to number 200,000 troops, considered an east coast landing a strong possibility, he also appreciated which route would be the most tempting for an enemy admiral: "The sovereign importance of London and the narrowness of the seas in this quarter make the south the theatre where the greatest precautions must be taken," he wrote on 15 July.

Germany's military leaders spent most of August arguing over the invasion plans while, in the skies over southern Britain, the RAF duelled with the Luftwaffe for aerial supremacy. Meanwhile, British bombers had been busy raiding German shipping anchored in the ports of Kiel, Bremen and Emden. The loss of valuable shipping caused the invasion date to be





NAVAL SUPREMACY
Britain's fleet at Weymouth, Dorset, was just one in the Royal Navy's mighty armada

AKG X1, GETTY X2, PRESS ASSOCIATION X1

"I MIGHT JUST AS WELL PUT THE TROOPS THROUGH THE SAUSAGE MACHINE"

GENERAL FRANZ HALDER TO ADMIRAL RAEDER



COME AND JOIN THE NAZI PARTY
The Waffen SS flies a Union Jack in a British Free Corps recruitment poster

TURNING TRAITOR

A handful of Brits joined the enemy cause...

The notorious Waffen SS – the elite and ruthless soldiers of the Nazi war machine – had various foreign divisions, including men who volunteered from France, Holland, Hungary and Denmark. Yet there was also a unit composed of British and Commonwealth soldiers. Initially called The Legion of St George, this small band of traitors later changed its name to the British Free Corps.

The German propaganda machine tried to make the most of its presence but, in truth, the Corps never numbered more than 30 soldiers. It was the brainchild of John Amery, the fascist son of the British Secretary of State for India, and he toured German prisoner of war camps in 1943, trying to persuade captured British soldiers to fight for the Nazis. Barely any POWs responded to the call to turn traitor – those few that did were officially designated the British Free Corps in January 1944. It wasn't until March 1945 that the Corps saw action, trying in vain with Scandinavian SS units to stem the Soviet advance into eastern Germany.

Most of the Corps was captured by Allied forces, and sentenced by the British to lengthy prison terms, although John Amery was executed for treason in December 1945. Two weeks later, William Joyce suffered a similar fate. Although not a member of the British Free Corps, Joyce broadcast Nazi propaganda in English, having fled to Germany in 1939 because of his fascist ideology. The Nazis hoped the broadcasts would strike fear into the British – millions of whom tuned in each week – but in fact Joyce's melodramatic sneer made them laugh.



THE DOGS OF WAR
A Luftwaffe pilot in an FW-190 hounds a Spitfire over the cliffs of Dover

rescheduled from 15 to 21 September. Then, it was put back another three days. All this time, Raeder continued to fret. "The risk is still too great," he declared. "If the 'Sea Lion' operation fails, this will mean a great gain in prestige for the British."

On 15 September, the RAF shot down 43 German aircraft, effectively bringing to a successful conclusion the Battle of Britain. Two days later, Hitler postponed the invasion indefinitely but, with cruel petulance, he ordered his air force to continue bombing British cities, in a campaign of terror that came to be known as the Blitz.

EASTERN PROMISE

But that was the extent of Hitler's attack. His heart had never been in the destruction of Britain and, since the end of July, an idea had taken root in his mind. Britain could be defeated without the need for a bloody invasion; it could be beaten by the 'annihilation' of Russia. The lightning conquest of the Low Countries, coupled with Germany's view of the Russian army as poorly-trained and led, convinced Hitler that he could sweep across Russia in a matter of months. Then, at last, he could fulfil his dream of turning the Soviet Union into Germany's answer to India. With Russia defeated, Britain would have lost its last potential European ally and then it would have to agree to peace on German terms.

On 22 June 1941, Germany invaded Russia and, the following month, Hitler informed his military leaders that he would turn his attention to Great Britain again in the spring of 1942, "by which time the Russian campaign will be completed". In his war memoirs, published in 1949, Churchill commented: "This was a vain but an important imagining. On February 13 1942, Admiral Raeder had his final interview on 'Sea Lion' and got Hitler to agree to a complete stand-down. Thus perished operation Sea Lion." ⊙

GET HOOKED

BOOKS
Take an intimate look at the Führer in Ian Kershaw's two-volume biography, *Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris* and *Hitler 1936-1945: Nemesis*.

HOW DID BRITAIN VIEW THE FÜHRER?

Before the war, Hitler was hardly seen as a threat at all

When Hitler became leader of Germany in 1933, few people in Britain recognised the danger he posed. Winston Churchill, then the Conservative MP for Epping, was a lone voice in describing the "odious conditions" many faced in Hitler's Germany. In a speech to the House of Commons in April 1933, he warned that the "persecution and pogrom of Jews" already spreading through Germany would soon be extended to other European nations.

But Churchill's warnings were ignored, drowned out by appeasers, apologists and admirers. Among the latter was Edward, Prince of Wales, who became King in 1936, though he abdicated within the year to marry the American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. The King sent Hitler a telegram in April 1936, on the occasion of his 47th birthday, wishing the Nazi leader "happiness and welfare". The following year, Edward, now the Duke of Windsor, accepted an invitation from Hitler to visit Germany and was seen giving his host the Nazi salute.

In 2015, a British tabloid caused a storm by publishing photos of Edward encouraging his sister-in-law (the future Queen Mother) and his niece (Elizabeth, the current Queen) to perform a Nazi salute for the cameras. No blame could be attached to the Queen, just seven at the time, and even the Queen Mother would not have known the depth of the Nazis' depravity at the time.

For many people in Britain, communism was the bigger threat in the early 1930s, and the likes of Hitler and Mussolini were seen almost as figures of fun, with their garish costumes and theatrical gestures. Many newspapers, notably the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Mirror*, championed Oswald Mosley's brand of fascism in the early 1930s, while *The Times* advocated a policy of appeasement. The broadsheet wasn't alone in supporting appeasement. The British public were, largely, keen to avoid another war and many were happy to see Europe's leaders give in to Hitler's demands over the occupation of Austria and the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

In wishing to avoid antagonising the Führer, the British government even ordered the England football team to perform the Nazi salute before a match against Germany in Berlin in 1938.

By the time the government, and the majority of the British people, realised the truth about Hitler it was too late: the Nazis were on the march and Churchill had been proved right.

275
The number of votes, to 153, by which the Oxford University's debating society voted against fighting "for King and Country" in 1933



THE FULL NAZI EXPERIENCE
During their 1937 trip to Germany, the former King and his wife not only met Hitler, but also **dined with the Deputy Führer** Rudolf Hess and visited a **concentration camp**.

QUESTIONABLE COMPANY
Edward Duke of Windsor (centre) and his wife Wallis Simpson meet the Führer in 1937

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SALEM WITCH TRIALS

Group hysteria gave rise to a horror that bedazzled the world, writes **Nige Tassell**

PARANOIA RULES
Two girls are tried for witchcraft – some 200 were accused of practicing the dark arts in the American village of Salem between 1692 and 1693

ART ARCHIVE X1 - TOPFOTO X1

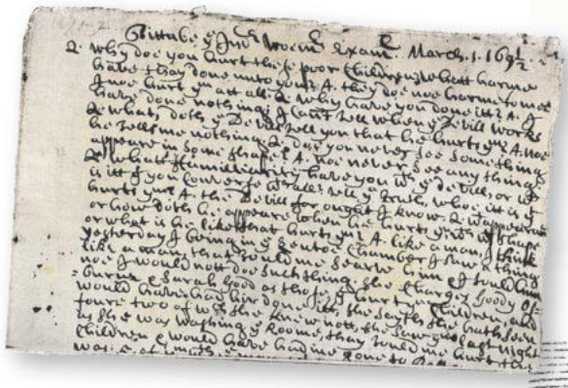


THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS

The heat is stifling on this July day in 1692, as five dishevelled and bound women are paraded on a wooden cart through the streets of Salem village in the colony of Massachusetts Bay. As the cart bumps its way towards a hill on the outskirts, the five contemplate their mortality. Within minutes they're led, hoods drawn over their heads, towards a rudimentary set of gallows, and their imminent executions.

These five women – Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Rebecca Nurse and Sarah Wildes – were the among the first to be tried and found guilty of witchcraft during a bleak nine-month period of New England history simply recalled as the Salem Witch Trials. As the innocent women approached the gallows, in the last moments of their lives, they continued to protest their innocence. Rev Nicholas Noyes, one of the local clergymen who had vigorously pursued the prosecutions, was the particular focus of Sarah Good's anger: "You are a liar. I am no more a witch than you are a wizard. And if you take away my life, God will give you blood to drink."

Good had been among the first local women to be arrested, after several young girls from the village had experienced mysterious afflictions the previous February. One bitterly cold evening, Betty Parris and Abigail Williams – the daughter and niece of the local Puritan minister Samuel Parris – began displaying disturbing behaviour described as being "beyond the power of epileptic fits or natural disease to effect". They screamed, made unearthly sounds, suffered convulsions and violently threw objects, and themselves, around their homes. When asked who it was that had afflicted them, they named Good – a homeless woman who had fallen destitute after denying the inheritance of her wealthy father's estate – as one of the three culprits. The girls' accusation was that Good had performed witchcraft on them.



FEAR AND LOATHING
MAIN: **A crowd watches as two of Salem's 'witches' are executed**
LEFT: **An extract from the written testimony of the slave Tituba**



SOCIAL OUTCASTS

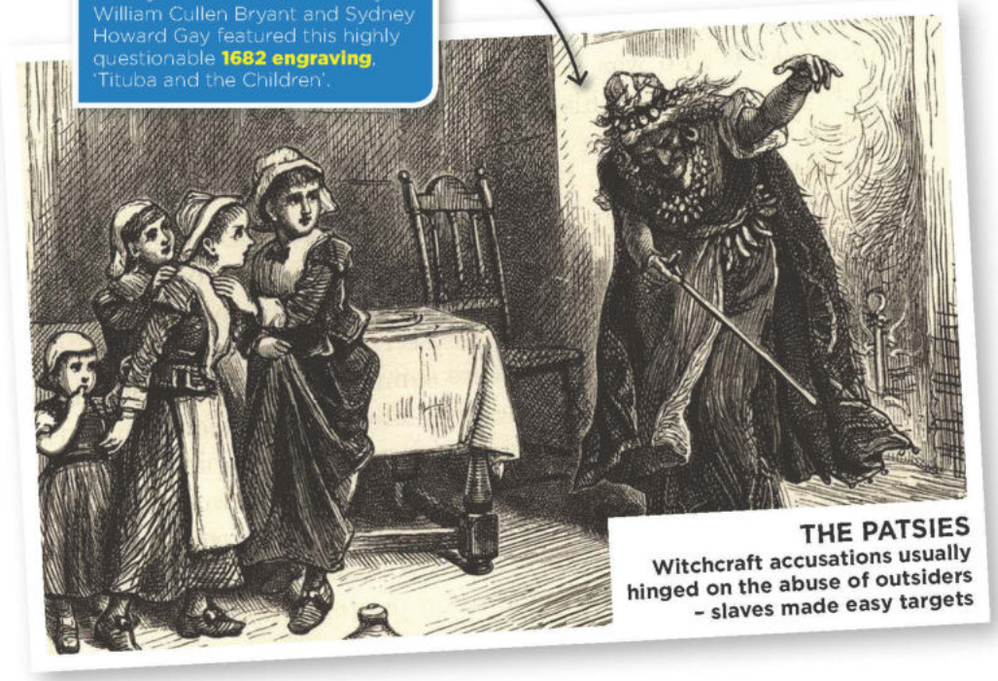
The other two accused and arrested at the same time were Sarah Osborne and Tituba, the Parris's black slave. Both, like Good, were viewed as outcasts by the local community; Tituba for her race and Osborne for the shedding of any religious beliefs she might once have held. They were soft, obvious targets for a mistrustful, God-fearing populace living along strictly defined lines. When it came to religion, Salem Village was as devout as any other settlement in the area; one visitor observed that the residents of New England could "neither drive a bargain, nor make a jest, without a text of Scripture at the end of it". Indeed, as Stacy Schiff explains in *The Witches*, her freshly published history of the witch trials, "It would have been difficult to find more than a few souls to whom the supernatural was not eminently real, part and parcel of the culture, as was the devil himself".

While Puritanism in New England demanded rigidly defined behaviour (hymns were the only permissible music, while children's toys were outlawed), the colony's geographical isolation increased the insularity of these communities. Hemmed in by the ocean to the east and by an untamed wilderness to the west, settlers were completely disconnected from both the mother country on the other side of the Atlantic and the remainder of the American continent. And insularity bred paranoia, as Schiff sharply explains. "In isolated settlements, in dim, smoky, firelit homes, New Englanders lived very much in the dark, where one listens more acutely, feels more passionately, imagines most vividly, where the sacred and the occult thrive."

These five executions were not the first in New England for the crime of witchcraft. Between 1647 and 1688, 12 women had been sentenced to death for making covenants with the devil.

But the particular brand of paranoia that was rife in Salem Village – fed by a rivalry with neighbouring Salem Town, ongoing family feuds and attacks by Native Americans – developed into mass hysteria. A flurry of accusations

BUY THE RIGHTS
The drama of Salem began to **inspire artists and writers** immediately, and does so to this day. The 1818 book *A Popular History of the United States* by William Cullen Bryant and Sydney Howard Gay featured this highly questionable **1682 engraving**, 'Tituba and the Children'.



THE PATSIES
Witchcraft accusations usually hinged on the abuse of outsiders – slaves made easy targets

ART ARCHIVE X2; ALAMY X1; BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1; TOPFOTO X1



from girls with afflictions similar to those of Betty Parris and Abigail Williams resulted in an avalanche of arrests and prosecutions.

Warrants were issued by the dozen, sometimes for the arrest of the most unlikely suspects. Among those detained in March 1692 were Martha Corey and Rebecca Nurse, upstanding members of the local churches in Salem Village and Salem Town respectively. Corey, a woman who, in her own words, "had made a profession of Christ and rejoiced to go and hear the word of God", had drawn the attention of the prosecutors by offering the opinion that the accusers were just "poor, distracted children". The hysteria gripping Salem – a settlement resonating with the incessant sound of accusation and counter-accusation – showed that no-one was exempt from suspicion. Even Sarah Good's four-year-old daughter Dorothy was arrested and interrogated by the magistrates.

By the end of May, more than 60 people were in custody; the vast majority were women, but a

DIAGNOSIS: BAD BREAD

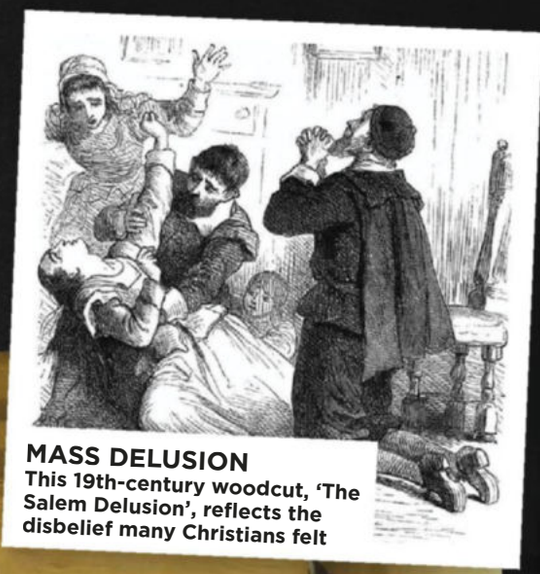
Theories as to what caused the outbreak of hysteria in Salem range from dodgy baking to the most likely – boredom and spite

In the 300 years since the Salem Witch Trials, experts have gone to great lengths to offer explanations for the young Salem girls' afflictions of a somewhat more rational nature than the 'witchcraft' diagnosed at the time.

A 1976 study, printed in the journal *Science*, attributed the girls' hysterical and possibly hallucinogenic behaviour to the ingestion of rye bread made with grain infected with ergot of rye. Ergot contains lysergic acid, a precursor for synthesis of LSD; certainly the visions of shape-shifting devils reported by the afflicted might be consistent with the experiences of an acid trip. Other medical explanations have included encephalitis lethargica, a disease carried by birds and animals, and Lyme disease, an infection that produces skin rashes similar to those believed to have been administered by the Salem 'witches'.

Other diagnoses have focused more on the mental wellbeing of the Salem girls. Psychosomatic disorders have been suggested as the root of the hysteria, most notably the societal strains placed on them in a strict, deeply religious adult world that made no contingency for the developmental needs of children. The hysterical behaviour was an unconscious outlet for rebellion, a release valve for the pressure that the threat of eternal damnation put them under.

And, of course, there's the theory that it was all down to good old-fashioned spite. In an insular society like Salem, where anyone straying from the norm was immediately criticised or condemned, accusations of witchcraft were a method of self-defence, of keeping the more undesirable elements of the local community at arm's length, if not removing them completely.



MASS DELUSION
This 19th-century woodcut, 'The Salem Delusion', reflects the disbelief many Christians felt

JUST A TICK
The physical **evidence of witchcraft**, suggested here may have been **the results of Lyme disease**, a tick-carried ailment still common in Massachusetts today, and which was only discovered in 1975.



'TIS PROOF!?
'Examination of a Witch' is an imaginative oil painting from 1853 by Tompkins Matteson

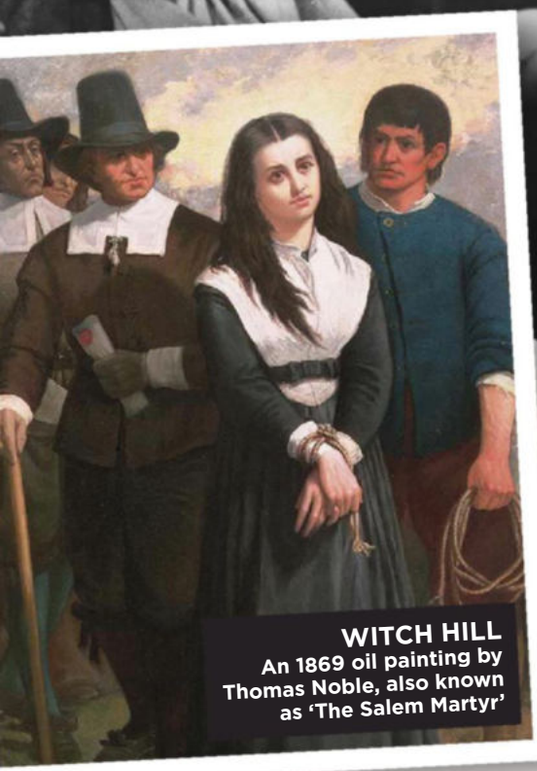
VIEW FROM THE DOCK

The classic Arthur Miller play *The Crucible* doesn't follow the **factual story** of the Salem Witch Trials to the letter, but the playwright wrote it specifically as an **allegory of McCarthyism**

THE CRUCIBLE
Arthur Miller's period drama is his most popular work. This is a still from the 1954 Bristol Old Vic production

"We humbly recommend... the speedy prosecution of such as have rendered themselves obnoxious"

The ministers of Boston and Charlestown to Governor Phips



WITCH HILL
An 1869 oil painting by Thomas Noble, also known as 'The Salem Martyr'

handful of men were also detained. On 2 June, the specially convened Court of Oyer and Terminer ('oyer' meaning 'to hear', 'terminer' meaning 'to decide') sat for the first time, presided over by William Stoughton, the newly appointed lieutenant governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. As chief justice, Stoughton believed that spectral evidence presented to the court – that is, evidence gathered from dreams and visions – would form a central plank of the prosecutions. At the same time, the accused would be denied legal representation.

Two days before the court convened, a Puritan minister from Boston named Cotton Mather (*right*) wrote to one of the judges expressing his concern over the admissibility of such evidence. A prolific pamphleteer railing against the spread of witchcraft (or "molestations from the invisible world"), Mather was nonetheless keen for due diligence to occur inside the courtroom. "Do not lay more stress on pure spectral evidence than it will bear," he cautioned.

The first case brought before the grand jury was that of Bridget Bishop, a woman around the age of 60 who faced a plethora of accusations: that she could pass through doors and windows without opening them; that she had made holes in the road suddenly open up, into which carts would fall before the holes would instantly disappear; that she had summoned a "black pig" with the body of a monkey and the feet of a cockerel. A large proportion of the case against Bishop also focused on her lifestyle, especially her rumoured promiscuity and un-Puritan ways. Tried and found guilty within the course of a single day, Bishop was hanged a week later on 10 June, the first execution of the trials.

ALL GALLOWS DAY

After Bishop's execution – and the court's endorsement of the indictments against Rebecca Nurse and John Willard, a local constable who, doubting the allegations, refused to bring the accused to court – the grand jury adjourned for almost three weeks. They did so in order to gather the observations of the colony's most senior ministers, to hear their reflections "upon the state of things as they then stood". The eight-point response, penned by Cotton Mather, advised prudence when it came to procedure, cautioning that hastiness shouldn't overwhelm lawfulness. However, the subtlety of the ministers' response was largely sidelined by the grand jury, who drew their energy from one particular concluding line from Mather: "we cannot but humbly recommend unto the government, the speedy and vigorous prosecution of such as have rendered themselves obnoxious." In possession of such a mandate, the trials moved up a gear.

In early July, Sarah Good and her four co-accused were tried and found guilty of bewitchment, making that journey to the gallows on that wooden cart a few days later. The indictments then came thick and fast. Another five were executed exactly a month later on 19 August, four of whom were men. One of them, George Burroughs, protested his innocence as the noose was readied. He is recorded to have recited a prayer "uttered with such composedness



CHURCH SUPPORT
Cotton Mather, a Puritan Minister and advocate of the trials

ALAMY X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X1, TOPFOTO X1

as such fervency of spirit [that it] drew tears from many, so that it seemed to some that the spectators would hinder the execution". Only the intervention of Cotton Mather – who appeased the crowd with the observation that "the devil had often been transformed into the Angel of Light" – ensured that the hangings continued as scheduled.

In mid-September, a further group went to the gallows – "Eight Firebrands of Hell" in the words of Rev Noyes. Three days earlier, the death of another of the accused had occurred. Giles Corey, the husband of Martha Corey, refused to enter a plea and was subjected to a particularly gruesome form of torture where the accused is crushed under heavy stones until they either respond or die – a tactic known as *peine forte et dure*, ('until he either answered or died'). Corey still refused to offer a plea and paid with his life.

By now, seven months on from the arrest of Sarah Good, the hysteria was decelerating. Having initially set up the Court of Oyer and Terminer, Governor William Phips – having returned from fighting in King Philip's War in Maine – voiced concerns about "what danger some of [his] innocent subjects might be exposed to" and dissolved the court, in the process pardoning those remaining in custody.

Not that the prosecutions were concluded even then. Fresh witchcraft cases continued to come before the new Superior Court of Judicature that, while again presided over by William Stoughton, was ordered not to accept spectral evidence. Even when the court ordered further executions, Phips wisely issued pardons to those convicted.

SHAME THE DEVIL

The Salem Witch Trials offered a salutary lesson not only to the colony of Massachusetts Bay but also to the new nation that would be forged in the following century. Through the loss of 20 lives, the episode continues to warn of the dangers of insularity and isolationism, of intolerance, of religious extremism. The less-than-thorough procedures of the Salem courtroom also prompted tighter, more rational legal processes that would later be enshrined in the US Constitution.

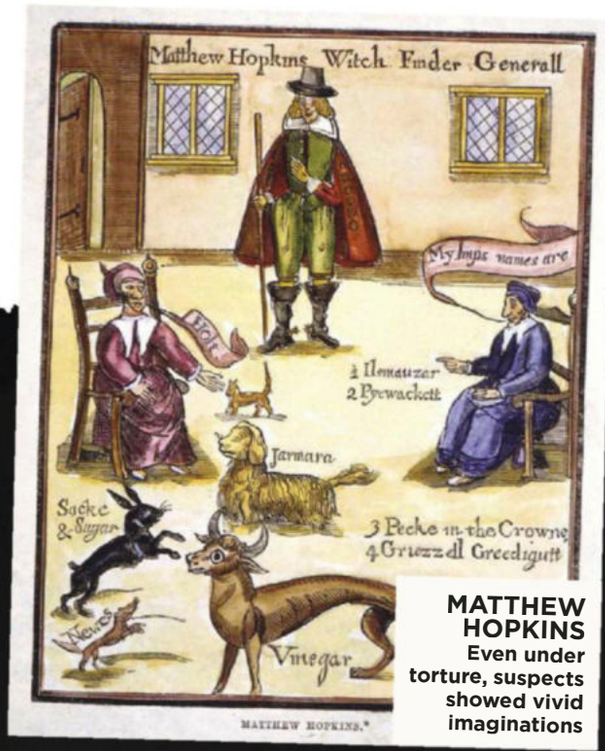
Of course, remembering the events of 1692 can still act as a brake when contemporary events take a sinister downturn. This was no more notable than when playwright Arthur Miller chose to dramatise the trials in his 1953 play *The Crucible*. An allegory of the intolerant McCarthyism discolouring the nation at the time – Miller would himself be called before the Committee on Un-American Activities three years later – the parallels were undeniable.

Despite its power as a cautionary tale, Salem remains an enigma that continues to fascinate and beguile more than three centuries later. "The irresistible locked-room mystery of the matter is what keeps us coming back to it," concludes Stacy Schiff. "In 300 years, we have not adequately penetrated nine months of Massachusetts history. If we knew more about Salem, we might attend to it less."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think caused the mass hysteria that led to the Salem Witch Trials?

Email: **editor@historyrevealed.com**



MATTHEW HOPKINS
Even under torture, suspects showed vivid imaginations

WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND

Anything the Americans can do, we can do better

While Salem has, in the English-speaking world at least, become the byword for witch-hunts, a very similar episode occurred in Lancashire in 1612, some 80 years before the panic in New England – the case of the Pendle Hill witches.

Witchcraft had been made illegal during Henry VIII's reign, with subsequent legislation passed under Elizabeth I further outlawing "conjurations" and "enchantments". When a young Lancastrian woman called Alison Device asked for a pin from a travelling peddler but was denied, the peddler apparently became immediately paralysed down his left side. Device reportedly admitted an act of bewitchment, as well as accusing another woman of undertaking similar practices. In pre-echoes of what would later occur in Salem, panic took hold of the local community, with accusations flying in all directions. More significant were admissions of attending a witches' meeting on Pendle Hill. Ultimately, eight women and two men were tried and found guilty of attending the gathering. With a 1562 act now permitting the death penalty for acts of witchcraft, they were hanged.

The other most notorious case of witchcraft in England came during the Civil War when Matthew Hopkins – the son of a Puritan clergyman and the self-styled 'Witch Finder General' – scoured East Anglia in search those suspected of making covenants with the Devil. Hopkins' crusade was at its most virulent between 1644 and 1646. Estimates suggest that over 200 women were executed during this period as a direct result of the investigations of Hopkins and his associates.

The English laws against witchcraft were repealed in 1736, after which incidents of suspected bewitchment, by now very isolated, were dealt with by mob rule rather than by a clear legal framework.

PAGAN PENDLE

The similarities between the **Pendle Hill Witch Trials** and what happened later in Salem are enough to make the latter seem like a US remake – both outbreaks of hysteria began as small domestic issues, ramped up by isolation and superstitious intolerance.

History's party animals

From Roman death-fests to galas for the avant garde, these fun-lovers certainly knew how to have a high old time...



This depiction of the Field of the Cloth of Gold was painted, probably for Henry VIII, in 1545

ULTIMATE GUEST LIST

On 13 June 1923, Igor Stravinsky's ballet *Les Noces* opened in Paris. Waiting up for the reviews, the cast and crew headed to a barge on the Seine, where famed socialites of the day Gerald and Sara Murphy were hosting the after-party. Joining them that night were songwriter Cole Porter; artist Pablo Picasso (who rearranged the centrepieces); author Jean Cocteau (who ran around shouting that the boat was sinking); poet Tristan Tzara and the composer himself, Stravinsky (who switched the place cards around). Bravo!



Russian cast member Felia Doubrovska in character



The Italian Renaissance family makes merry in US TV drama *The Borgias*

THE BAWDY BORGIAS

In 1501, Cesare Borgia – the son of Pope Alexander VI – hosted a feast in his quarters in the Vatican, a party known as the Banquet of Chestnuts. After the meal, the guests were entertained by the dancing of "50 honest prostitutes", at which point the evening descended into a mass orgy. Historian William Manchester notes that "servants kept score of each man's orgasms, for the Pope greatly admired virility and measured a man's machismo by his ejaculative capacity".



The Shah's chefs prepare a fowl feast

DRINKING LIKE A SAILOR

The party thrown by the 1st Earl of Orford, Admiral Edward Russell (below), in 1694 in Cadiz for his fleet must have been quite the bash as, if the reports can be believed, it included what was quite probably the biggest cocktail in history. The punch was served in a fountain – instead of water, it flowed with 946 litres of brandy, 475 litres of wine, 635 kilos of sugar, the juice of 2,500 lemons, 75 litres of lime juice, and 2 kilos of nutmeg. Apparently, it took his 6,000 guests a week to drink dry.



Russell had a Ship's Boy paddle around the alco-fountain in a little boat, ladling out the punch to his party-goers.

BIRTHDAY BASH

Ten years in the making, the Shah of Iran's celebration of 2,500 years of the Iranian monarchy was an extravaganza held in Persepolis in 1971. Said to have cost $100 million, 165 chefs were flown in from Paris to serve a menu including champagne sorbet and 50 roasted peacocks. The Ayatollah Khomeini called it "the devil's festival"; eight years later, he led the revolution that caused the Shah to leave Iran forever.

ALAMY X3, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, GETTY X3, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS X1, MOVIESTILLS X1, LEBRECHT MUSIC & ARTS X1



A VERY CORDIALE ENTENTE

For three weeks in June 1520, a site near Calais hosted one of the most glamorous political meetings ever. The Field Of The Cloth Of Gold was a summit between Kings Henry VIII of England and Francis I of France, a consolidation of friendship following the Anglo-French Treaty of 1514. Given its name for the extravagant fabric that the marquees of both sides were made from, the political significance of the gathering was overshadowed by the endless days of jousting, feasting and dancing.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The inaugural games of the Flavian Amphitheatre – the arena known as the Colosseum in Rome – were held in AD 80, a 100-day celebration presided over by Emperor Titus. Aside from executions and gladiatorial battles, an estimated 9,000 animals were killed, according to Roman historian Cassius Dio. Titus apparently wept on the games' final day and reportedly died less than 24 hours later.



V FOR VICTORY

When Hitler's successor Karl Donitz signed his name on Germany's unconditional surrender in May 1945, the cities of Europe and North America burst into spontaneous celebration in what became known as Victory In Europe Day – or VE Day. More than 1 million people took to the streets of central London alone, where Winston Churchill, from the balcony of the Ministry of Health, informed the crowds "This is your victory!".



On VE Day morning, Winston Churchill sought assurances from the Ministry of Food that there would be enough beer for London's celebrations.

The residents of Kentwell Close, South London celebrate victory

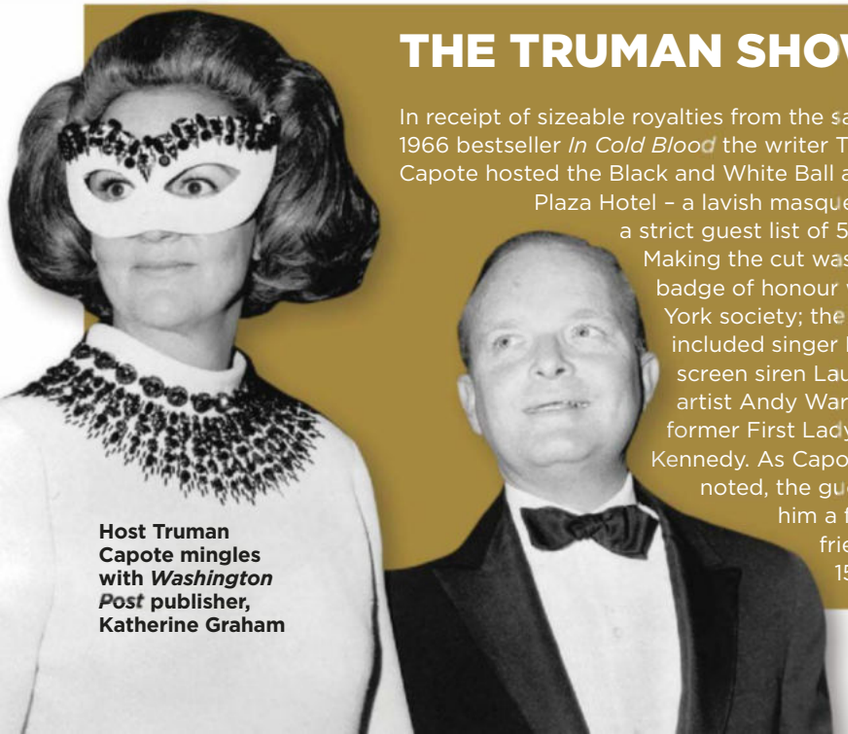


WILD TIMES AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Following his inauguration in March 1829, US President Andrew Jackson invited the public to attend a ball at the White House. But, despite having just been elected, Jackson underestimated his popularity and a crowd of 20,000 thirsty well-wishers turned up, squeezing into his new home's rooms and corridors. Much accidental damage ensued, with White House security only able to reduce numbers by taking the punch bowl out onto the front lawn.

THE TRUMAN SHOW

In receipt of sizeable royalties from the sales of his 1966 bestseller *In Cold Blood* the writer Truman Capote hosted the Black and White Ball at New York's Plaza Hotel – a lavish masquerade with a strict guest list of 540 invitees. Making the cut was a true badge of honour within New York society; the attendees included singer Frank Sinatra, screen siren Lauren Bacall, artist Andy Warhol, and former First Lady Jackie Kennedy. As Capote himself noted, the guest list made him a few hundred friends but some 15,000 foes.



Host Truman Capote mingles with *Washington Post* publisher, Katherine Graham

THE TSAR'S LAST HURRAH

Amid growing social unrest, two years before Russia's revolution of 1905, Tsar Nicholas II (right) hosted a final decadent gathering, the last imperial ball in St Petersburg's Winter Palace. The feast itself occupied three large state rooms, while the guests wore extravagant, priceless antique clothing. As the guests danced and cavorted, Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich observed that "a new and hostile Russia glared through the window".





OPENING SHOTS
The redcoats open fire on the Jacobites, as re-enactors bring the last battle of the 'Forty-Five' rising to life

Massacre of the clans

A single, brief-but-bloody battle, fought on a Scottish moor on a cold spring day in 1746, brought an end to the Jacobites' bid to reclaim the British crown for the Stuarts. **Julian Humphrys** explains all...

Five miles east of Inverness, on a bleak, windswept moor on 16 April 1746, two armies faced each other. For one of the commanders, Charles Edward Stuart, this was the culmination of a journey that had begun the previous July, when he landed in the Outer Hebrides. He had come to lead a French-backed bid to claim the British throne for his father, the exiled James Stuart.

Support for Charles, also known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, had

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND, CULLODEN XL, GETTY X1



COLD STEEL
The 43cm-long bayonet was attached to the musket by a ring so that the weapon could still be fired while it was fitted.

LOOKING SMART
White, thigh-length gaiters were usually only worn on formal occasions. On campaign, they were normally replaced by more practical brown, grey or black ones.

BATTLE CONTEXT

Who
Jacobites
5,500 men, commanded by Charles Edward Stuart
Government
7,500 men, led by William, Duke of Cumberland

When
16 April 1746

Where
Culloden Moor, near Inverness

Why
The Government attempts to quash a Jacobite uprising

Outcome
Decisive Government victory

Losses
Jacobites
2,000 killed and wounded
Government
300 killed and wounded

80
The proportion, in per cent, of the Government's wounded that later died of their wounds

been decidedly lukewarm – many Protestant Scots were hostile to the Catholic Stuarts. But he cobbled together an army that, in September, won a stunning victory over a Government force at Prestonpans near Edinburgh. In early November, he and his army crossed the border into England. By December, he'd reached Derby – only six days' march from a very-worried London. Few English Jacobites had joined Charles, however, and Government regiments – many brought back from fighting in France – were massing. The decision was taken to retreat to Scotland.

Despite winning a second victory, this time at Falkirk, the Jacobites fell back into the Highlands, where they prepared for a fresh invasion in the spring. But the Government's forces were also on the move and, in February, a substantial army under the Duke of Cumberland marched into Aberdeen.

Cumberland was determined to crush the Jacobites once and for all, and he spent the following weeks laying in supplies and training his troops for battle. On 8 April, with winter finally over, Cumberland's army left Aberdeen and headed for Inverness, where the Jacobites were based. Eight days later, the two armies – 7,500 redcoats and 5,500 Jacobites – met on Culloden Moor.

BATTLE STATIONS

Cumberland's army was drawn up in two lines of regiments, with further troops in reserve. On the left of his front line stood the 373 men of Colonel William Barrell's regiment. Barrell was in his mid-70s, so his regiment was led in the field by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Rich. To Rich's right were the 426 men of what had been known as Munro's Regiment. Although his men were largely English, Sir Robert Munro was a Highlander who had previously been the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Scottish infantry unit, the Black Watch. Munro's regiment had been badly mauled at Falkirk and Munro himself had been killed there so, at Culloden, the unit was just getting used to its new name

– Dejean's Regiment, after its new leader, Colonel Louis Dejean.

Four more regiments stood next to them at the front – including the Scots Fusiliers. Forward and to the left of the main Government line was a stone enclosure, into which Cumberland had posted a unit of dragoons (mounted infantry) and 200 men of the Argyll militia – Highlanders fighting not for Bonnie Prince Charlie, but for the Government.

Cumberland's men were equipped with flintlock muskets. By our standards, these guns were highly inaccurate but, when fired en masse against a tightly packed body of men, they could be devastating. The muskets were fitted with long steel bayonets for hand-to-hand fighting.

Most of the Jacobites were also equipped with muskets, many supplied by the French, and they paid much more attention to musketry than is popularly thought. However some, especially officers, carried broadswords – when they charged, they were hard to stop. According to an English newspaper, some Jacobites would: *"Fire their muskets at about 30 yards distance then fling down their muskets and run in upon the enemy with their swords and targets [small round shields]... They take the point of the bayonet upon the target and cut at the same time with their broadswords."*

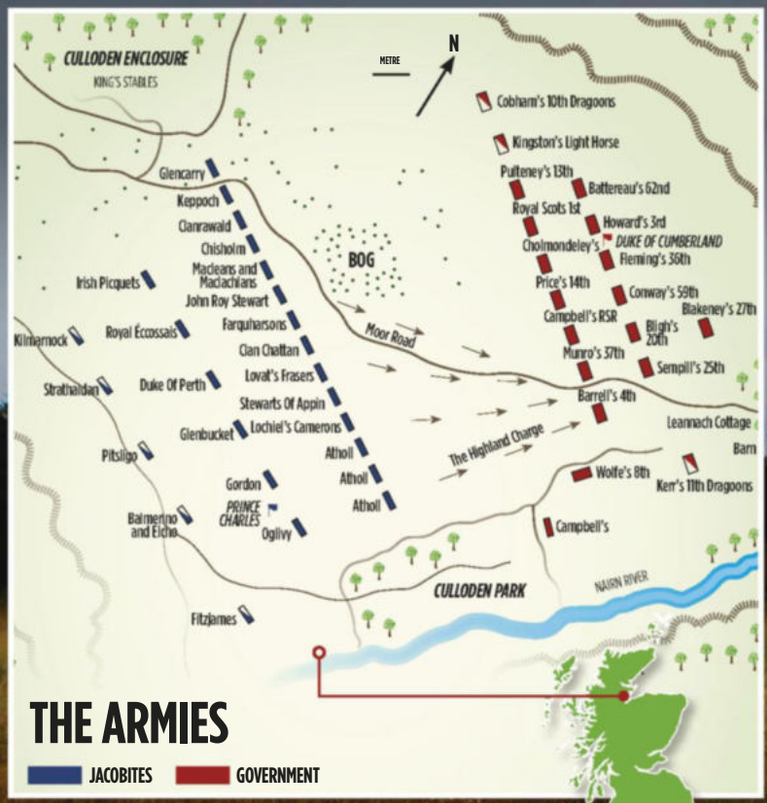
2,320
The number of Jacobite muskets that were picked up after the battle

This tactic had worked with devastating effectiveness at Prestonpans and Falkirk, where those troops that hadn't fled at the sight of the charging Jacobites found their bayonets flicked aside before they were cut down. Would the same thing happen at Culloden? Bonnie Prince Charlie clearly thought so. Despite the fact that his men were outnumbered and tired after an abortive night march in an attempt to catch the Government army by surprise, he was still determined to attack across the moor.

This went against the advice of his most able subordinate, Lord

THE LAY OF THE LAND

With the better position, new tactics and greater numbers, it took less than an hour for the Government's regiments to dismiss Bonnie Prince Charlie's clansmen



WHO WERE THE JACOBITES?

The Jacobites were the supporters of King James VII (of Scotland) and II (of England) and his heirs. James ruled Britain from 1685-88 but, partly because of his Catholic policies, he was forced into exile and replaced by his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange. Those who continued to support the exiled King became known as 'Jacobites' after Jacobus, the Latin version of James. There were three main Jacobite risings: one in 1689 led by 'Bonnie Dundee' – John Graham of Claverhouse; one in 1715-16 against King George I, led by the Earl of Mar; and the 'Forty-Five' (1745-46), when Charles Edward Stuart, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', led an army against the Hanoverian dynasty.



Jacobite re-enactors take to the battlefield at Culloden



GRENADIER'S HEADGEAR
Cumberland's toughest troops were identifiable by their tall, embroidered caps – precursors of the bearskin numbers still worn today

KEY PLAYERS

Two leaders held the reins at this battle – the culmination of the 'Forty-Five' rebellion



CHARLES EDWARD STUART
Known as 'The Young Pretender' and 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', Charles was born in Rome in 1720. He was the grandson of the exiled James VII and II (see above) and son of the 'Old Pretender', James Stuart. He was 25 at the time of the Battle of Culloden, after which he escaped to the continent. Charles died in Rome in 1788.



WILLIAM, DUKE OF CUMBERLAND
The second surviving son of George II and commander of the Government army at Culloden, he celebrated his 25th birthday on the eve of the battle, which was the only major victory he ever won. After the battle, his admirers dubbed him 'Sweet William' while his detractors called him 'the Butcher'. He died in 1765.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND, CULLODEN X1, ALAMY X4, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1



THE FIGHTERS

Culloden was by no means a simple battle between the English and the Scots. Though Highlanders made up the major part of Charles's army, French, Irish and even some English also fought for him. Indeed, the Government's army – generally thought to be 'English' – included thousands of Scots, from the Highlands as well as the Lowlands. While most of Cumberland's men were professional soldiers, by contrast, only a small proportion of Charles's army was made up of career soldiers – troops from the French army. Many of his Highlanders were only there because their clan chiefs had told them to fight.

WHITE COCKADE
This little bow was worn by Jacobites to show their support for the exiled Stuarts.

BROADSWORD
While many Highlanders charged into action wielding fearsome broadswords, a significant number advanced with muskets in their hands.

TARGE
A leather-covered wooden shield used to deflect the enemy's swords and bayonets.

TARTAN
Clan tartans didn't exist in the 18th century, so individuals tended to wear whatever sett (pattern) was available or took their fancy.

CRIME OF FASHION
Wearing the highland kilt was banned for 36 years following the battle.

"When the broadsword-wielding Jacobites charged, they were hard to stop"





A BITTER FIGHT
Charles's tartan warriors meet Cumberland's redcoats

George Murray, who argued that, while the uneven boggy terrain at Culloden would hamper the movements of Cumberland's cavalry and dragoons, it was also extremely difficult to charge across.

OPEN FIRE

The battle began at about 12.30pm. A dozen or so small guns in front of the Jacobite lines opened fire, managing two rounds each before the Government's guns replied. Cumberland's gunners proved far more effective, and Jacobite casualties began to mount as their leaders dithered over whether to attack or not. One of Cumberland's aides later wrote: "*When our cannon had fired about two rounds... and, could not remain long in the position they were in without either running away or coming down upon us and according as I thought, in two or three minutes they broke from the centre in three large bodies.*" The Jacobites' attack had begun.

6
The height, in metres, of the memorial cairn at the battlefield, erected in 1881

The two armies had not drawn up exactly parallel to each other, and this was to have quite an effect on ensuing events. The right of the Jacobite army was nearer to the enemy than its left; with further to charge and more challenging terrain to charge across, those clans on the left never even reached Cumberland's front line.

By contrast, the Jacobites on the right didn't have so far to charge and they managed to close with their enemies. However, it was far from a clean run. A storm of shot hailed from the redcoats in front of them, while flanking fire came from Cumberland's troops in the stone enclosure – in avoidance of which the clans on the far right, the Camerons and men of Atholl, had veered to the left, colliding with their own men. The advancing Jacobites crashed forward in a huge mob across the uneven ground. Lord George Murray later commented: "*They were quite in disorder and received several fires before they could come up with the enemy... the Highlanders lost the benefit of their own fire for only a few who ran the quickest actually fired upon the enemy. By far the greater number who followed... could not fire as some of their own men were betwixt them and the enemy.*"

Even so, it is thought Charles's troops managed a good number of shots of their own, as many French musket balls have been recovered from the battlefield. Despite all their problems, the Jacobites on the right did reach the Government lines.

In previous battles, the Government infantry had either run away at this point or found their bayonets no match for the Jacobites' swords and shields. But Cumberland had been working on a solution for this. He had ordered his soldiers not to thrust at the man in front of them, which put them at risk of having their bayonets knocked aside. Instead, they were instructed to stab at the unprotected right-hand side of the next man along. To ignore the warrior in front of you was a tactic that took considerable nerve and training, but it seems that the redcoats did it and, in the end, it worked.

"It was a tactic that took considerable nerve, but it worked"

Perhaps given new confidence by the knowledge that they had a way to combat the Highlanders, Barrell's and Dejean's – the two regiments on Cumberland's left – didn't run away this time. Supported by mortars that fired explosive shells into the Jacobite ranks, they sent volley after volley into their enemies and then stood their ground and fought it out. They paid a high price for doing so. A third of Barrell's regiment were killed or wounded including Rich, who had one of his hands severed by a broadsword, and Dejean lost over 80 men.

Eventually, numbers told. Though Barrell's regiment was overrun and Dejean's pushed aside, their stands had broken the momentum of the Jacobites. Try as they might, Charles's men could make no impact on Cumberland's second line. Unable to break through the solid lines of bayonets, and fired at from both flanks by fresh regiments of redcoats, the Jacobites were forced to retreat across the moor. With his enemies in disarray, Cumberland unleashed his cavalry. One of his soldiers later wrote: "Our light horse and dragoons were speedily sent after them and strewed the road for five miles with dead bodies." It had all taken around 40 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

Culloden was devastating for the Jacobites...

While Cumberland had lost just 50 men with under 250 injured, about 2,000 Jacobites had been killed or wounded. But many more were to die in the brutal aftermath. In Cumberland's eyes, the Jacobites were traitors and rebels to be exterminated quickly. To fire up his own troops, he'd informed them that Charles had ordered his followers to give no quarter. It wasn't true, but it had the desired effect. While the French and Irish Jacobites were treated as prisoners of war, many of the surviving rebels were dispatched and other Highlanders, rebels and non-rebels alike, died in the so-called 'pacification' that followed. Many of the worst atrocities were actually carried out by Scots on other Scots, Lowlanders on Highlanders, or clans on clans, but there's no disputing that Cumberland actively encouraged the reprisals. Bonnie Prince Charlie himself escaped capture, eventually escaping back to France in September.



DEFEATED MEN
Jacobite prisoners are led through a Highland village

GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

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Managed by the National Trust for Scotland, Culloden is without doubt one of Britain's most evocative and atmospheric battlefields. Allow plenty of time to explore its award-winning visitor centre. *www.nts.org.uk/Culloden*

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LIFE OF THE GREAT SOUL

The man who used peaceful protest to fight the British Empire and change the world: Mahatma Gandhi

AT A GLANCE

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is a truly global icon. In India, he will forever be the adored father of the nation, who led the struggle for independence from British rule and peacefully campaigned for his people's civil rights. His philosophy of non-violent protest influenced the entire world throughout the 20th century, and enshrined his honoured title of Mahatma ('Great Soul') as one of the most easily recognised and revered names in history.

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE/GETTY X1, GETTY X4

SOUTH AFRICA

Before he was an inspirational leader in his native India, Gandhi fought for freedoms thousands of miles away



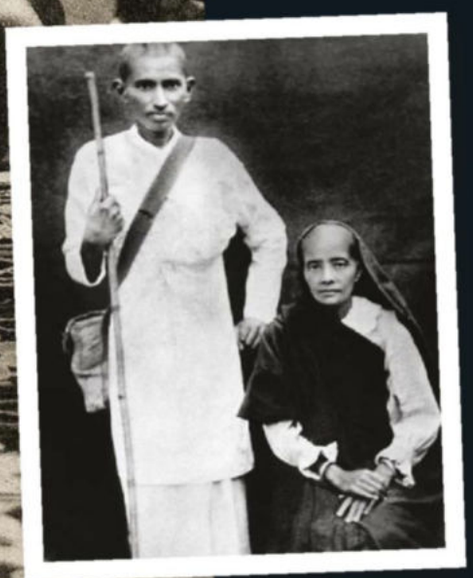
EARLY INJUSTICES

Having studied as a lawyer, the 24-year-old Gandhi joins a firm in South Africa in 1893. Immediately, he is exposed to the terrible discrimination faced by Indians on a daily basis. He is kicked off a train for refusing to leave first-class, barred from hotels and beaten for not giving up his seat to a white European. In 1908, shortly before this photo is taken, he is arrested for refusing to carry his 'pass' – an obligatory identity document.



PASSIVE RESISTANCE

Gandhi rises as a leader of Indians in South Africa, inspiring his community to adopt his method of non-violent, passive resistance, *satyagraha* ('devotion to truth'). Based on the Hindu faith, this peaceful form of protest is used in a seven-year campaign against a demeaning law – forced registration of Indians. Thousands are jailed, flogged and shot as they strike and march across the country.



A PASSAGE TO INDIA

By the time he returns to his homeland in 1914, Gandhi has lived in South Africa with his wife, Kasturba, and their growing family for over 20 years. Despite having an international reputation as a political giant, he keeps quiet during World War I. But in 1919, he is provoked into action when laws are passed that give the authorities the power to imprison without trial. Then, after British soldiers fire on unarmed protesters at Amritsar, Gandhi fully commits to Indian nationalism.

SYMBOLS OF A FREE INDIA

As leader of the independence movement, Gandhi adopts an ascetic lifestyle, rejecting material possessions and devoting himself to prayer and protest. As seen in this iconic shot from 1946, the 77-year-old dresses only in a loincloth (sometimes adding a shawl) so to identify with traditional Indian culture. The spinning wheel – or *charkha* – is another hugely important symbol, representing economic freedom for India and a boycotting of British goods.



IN PICTURES
MAHATMA GANDHI

VISIT TO BRITAIN

In 1931, Gandhi was asked to come to London and discuss reform in India – it turned out to be an eventful trip



THE SALT MARCH

In the early 1920s, Gandhi energises the Indian National Congress, promotes boycotts of British manufacturing and faces arrest for sedition, but the greatest triumph of his civil disobedience comes in 1930. To protest British taxes on salt, which affect India's poorest, he organises a 241-mile trek across the country. By the time he reaches the western coastal town of Dandi, the Salt March has taken him 25 days.



STANDING OUT

Not everyone is happy to see Gandhi, one of the most famous people in the world, come to Britain. In a speech, the Conservative politician Winston Churchill states: "It is alarming and also nauseating to see Mr Gandhi, striding half-naked up the steps of the Vice-regal palace... to parley on equal terms with the representative of the King-Emperor."

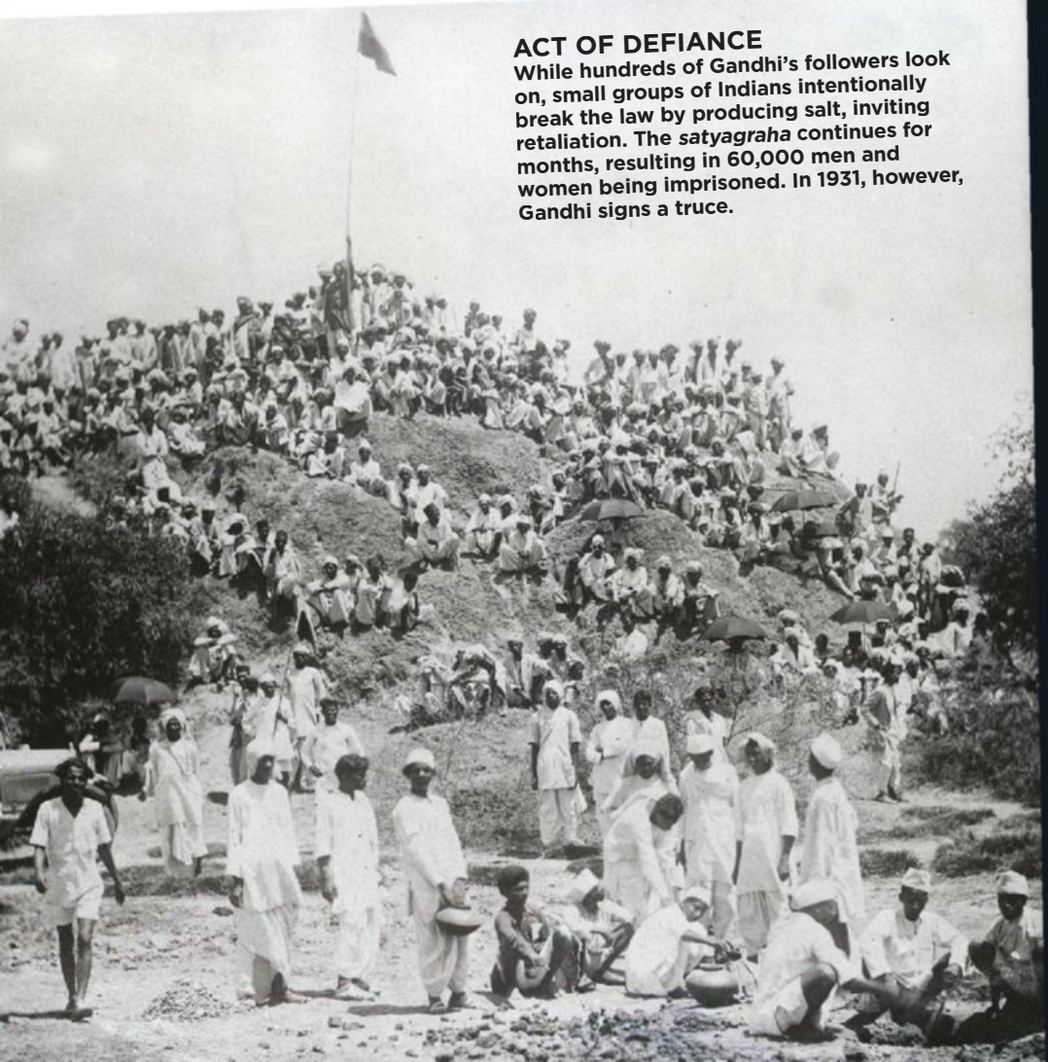


WARM WELCOME

Despite a few critics, the response to Gandhi's visit is overwhelmingly positive, as the 62-year-old discovers when meeting the workers of a Lancashire cotton mill. "They treated me as one of their own. I shall never forget that," says Gandhi, who sympathises with the hardships of the British poor – which has been exacerbated by the independence movement's boycott of goods.

ACT OF DEFIANCE

While hundreds of Gandhi's followers look on, small groups of Indians intentionally break the law by producing salt, inviting retaliation. The *satyagraha* continues for months, resulting in 60,000 men and women being imprisoned. In 1931, however, Gandhi signs a truce.



SEEDS OF HOPE

In late September 1931, Gandhi takes time out from his hectic schedule to plant a tree on a London street, demonstrating hope for growth between the nations. Wherever he goes, he is followed by supporters, the world's press and a small entourage of both Indians and Britons.



“I HAVE BEEN KNOWN AS A CRANK, FADDIST, MADMAN. EVIDENTLY, THE REPUTATION IS WELL DESERVED.”

MAHATMA MANIA
Gandhi’s car is swamped by a cheering crowd as he arrives for the second Round Table Conference, starting in September 1931. As the sole representative of the Indian National Congress, he is keen to discuss Indian independence, having found a supporter for that cause in the silent movie legend, Charlie Chaplin (smiling on the left, below).



ROUND AND ROUND
The Conference, however, proves to be a great disappointment for Gandhi, as little is achieved. Returning home, he also finds that the British are taking a firmer stance on the Indian nationalists and they aim to cut him off from his supporters. Gandhi is arrested.

GETTY X8

"LIVE AS IF YOU WERE TO DIE TOMORROW. LEARN AS IF YOU WERE TO LIVE FOREVER."

"MY LIFE IS MY MESSAGE"
As well as his political activity, Gandhi dedicates himself to his spiritual growth, through prayer and fasting, and his family. When this photo is taken in 1938 (even though he is approaching 70) Gandhi is fit enough to run and play with one of his grandchildren on a beach near Bombay (now Mumbai).

HARD AND FAST
Fasting is another powerful tool for Gandhi as, in the 1930s, he makes it clear he is willing to die as part of his *satyagraha*. When the British government make the decision to segregate India's poorest caste – the 'untouchables' – Gandhi fasts until reforms are swiftly introduced. Here, a weakening Gandhi is joined by a young Indira Nehru, who would become, as Indira Gandhi (no relation), the future Prime Minister of India.

CORBIS X1, GETTY X5

QUIT INDIA

Gandhi was instrumental in finally securing independence for India, but it wasn't exactly how he wanted it



FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Gandhi resigns as leader of the Congress Party in 1934, with the aim of implementing social reforms in rural India – where 85 per cent of the people live. His retirement isn't to last, however; he returns to politics and speech-making, as seen here in 1939, as World War II draws near.



ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

As war rages, Gandhi establishes a restored and vigorous campaign for Indian independence – the 'Quit India' movement. Acts of civil disobedience, including blockading rail traffic, lead to an aggressive clampdown by the British. Gandhi and his wife, who dies in 1944, are imprisoned.

THE PARTITION OF INDIA

In the aftermath of the war, British and Indians (such as Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, below) discuss the imminent independence. The Mountbatten Plan, however, splits former British lands into two countries – the Hindu India and a Muslim Pakistan. This goes against Gandhi's dream of religious unity, and results in large-scale riots, horrific violence and at least half a million deaths.



THE GREAT SOUL DEPARTS

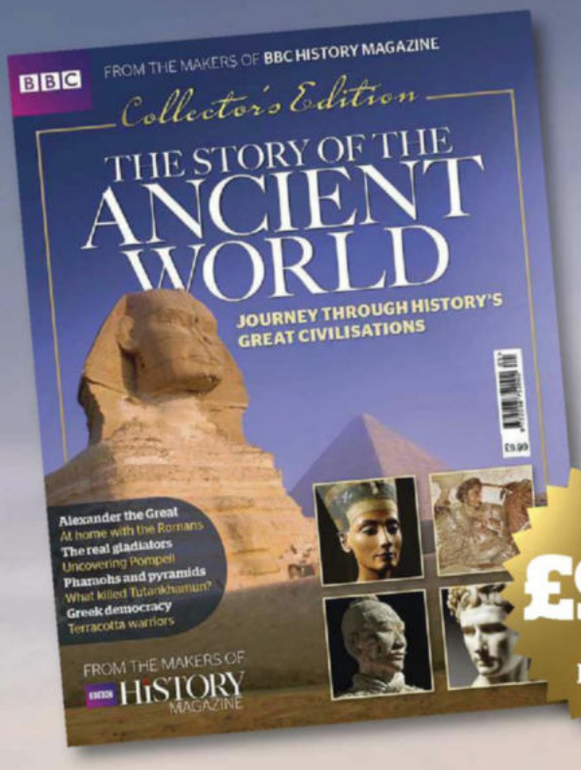
On 30 January 1948, Gandhi (aged 78) is gunned down while on his way to prayers by a Hindu nationalist. Gandhi had spent his last months fasting in the hopes of ending the violence but his assassin, Nathuram Godse, feels Gandhi is betraying the Hindu cause. Only 24 hours after the death, 1 million mourners line the streets of New Delhi – and climb poles for a better view – as the Mahatma's funeral procession goes by.

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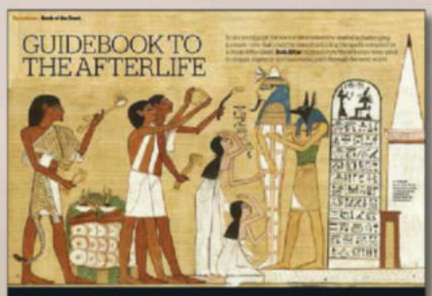


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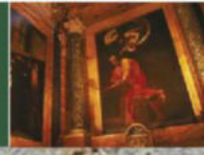


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TORTURED SOUL
Italian painter Ottavio Leoni's 1621 chalk likeness is the closest we have to an accurate portrait of Caravaggio

SEX AND VIOLENCE BEHIND THE CANVAS

His paintings were dramatic both in style and subject, but Caravaggio would never have created his masterpieces if his own life was not equally as wild, writes **Jonny Wilkes**

AKG X1, GETTY X1

The year was 1606, and Rome's most celebrated, most revolutionary and, by far, most scandalous Renaissance artist was fleeing the city in fear of his life. Was he escaping the enemies he made due to his paintings? Or had his violent tendencies caught up with him?

In the previous six years, the arrogant Italian had courted controversy among both religious and artistic groups. His first sensation came in 1600, with the unveiling of two paintings for Rome's Contarelli Chapel, *The Martyrdom of Saint Matthew* and *The Calling of Saint Matthew* (*below right*), which were described by the thousands who flocked to see them as either sacrilegious or miraculous. Such conflicting reactions to Caravaggio's work quickly became the norm, and each new piece was received with a dollop of delicious gossip. While some were in awe of his innovative, dramatic lighting, others were appalled by his depictions of biblical figures. Rather than being seen as pure and saintly, they were real and flawed – a highly provocative move, which incensed the Church. He took his naturalistic approach so far as to model his subjects on actual people from the streets of Rome, including prostitutes.

It wasn't his critics, however, that drove Caravaggio out of town. While he was gaining his prestigious commissions, he was also becoming familiar with the courts of law and was arrested numerous times for violent behaviour. In 1604 alone, he was charged with throwing stones at Roman guards and accused of hurling a plate of artichokes into the face of a waiter. Then, on 29 May 1606, he fought an illegal duel and killed his opponent. Facing death if he stayed, Caravaggio had no choice but to abscond from the city where he found fame, not knowing if he would ever see Rome again.

WHEN IN ROME

When Caravaggio was born in 1571, near the Italian city of Milan, he was named Michelangelo Merisi. Caravaggio was the town where he spent his childhood – but it wasn't a place of happy memories for the young man. Much like his now-distinctive paintings, most of his early life is cast in darkness, but it is thought that nearly his entire family, including his father, may have been wiped out by plague when he was only six. Then, only a few years later, his mother also died. The orphaned Caravaggio travelled to Rome in the early 1590s in search of work and so that he could develop his burgeoning artistic skills.

At the end of the 16th century, Rome was already overflowing with painters and sculptors seeking fame and fortune, as dozens of churches were being built or restored during the Renaissance. In fact, there were so many hopeful artists that they had their own quarter in the city – a dingy area, cluttered with inns and densely packed houses. As competition for commissions was so fierce, the quarter was a very dangerous place – feuds would spill over into

CARDSHARPS, c1594

▼ Caravaggio painted this seminal work while trying to make a name for himself in Rome – it succeeded in attracting the patronage of powerful Cardinal Francesco del Monte



ALAMY X2, GETTY X1



ROLE PLAY
Painted on canvas, *Medusa* was attached to a **wooden, circular shield with a strap on the back**, so that the grand duke could recreate the moment from the myth when Perseus saw the reflection of the monster's face.

violence very day. Most men carried weapons and some formed gangs. An artist needed more than mere talent to make it here. Caravaggio – who entered into the dog-eat-dog attitude with a certain gusto – was said to walk the streets in the company of "brash, swaggering fellows" who all lived by the motto *nec spe, nec metu* – 'without hope, without fear'. He was once charged with stabbing another artist and wounding a soldier.

As for his painting, Caravaggio jumped from one job to another, surviving on scraps and frequently working under lesser artists. It was years before he started selling his own work (having completed around 40 paintings) and was noticed by Cardinal Francesco del Monte. This was a pivotal moment in Caravaggio's career as the Cardinal invited the young artist, not yet 30, under his patronage and helped him secure a commission to decorate the Contarelli Chapel in the church of San Luigi dei Francesi.

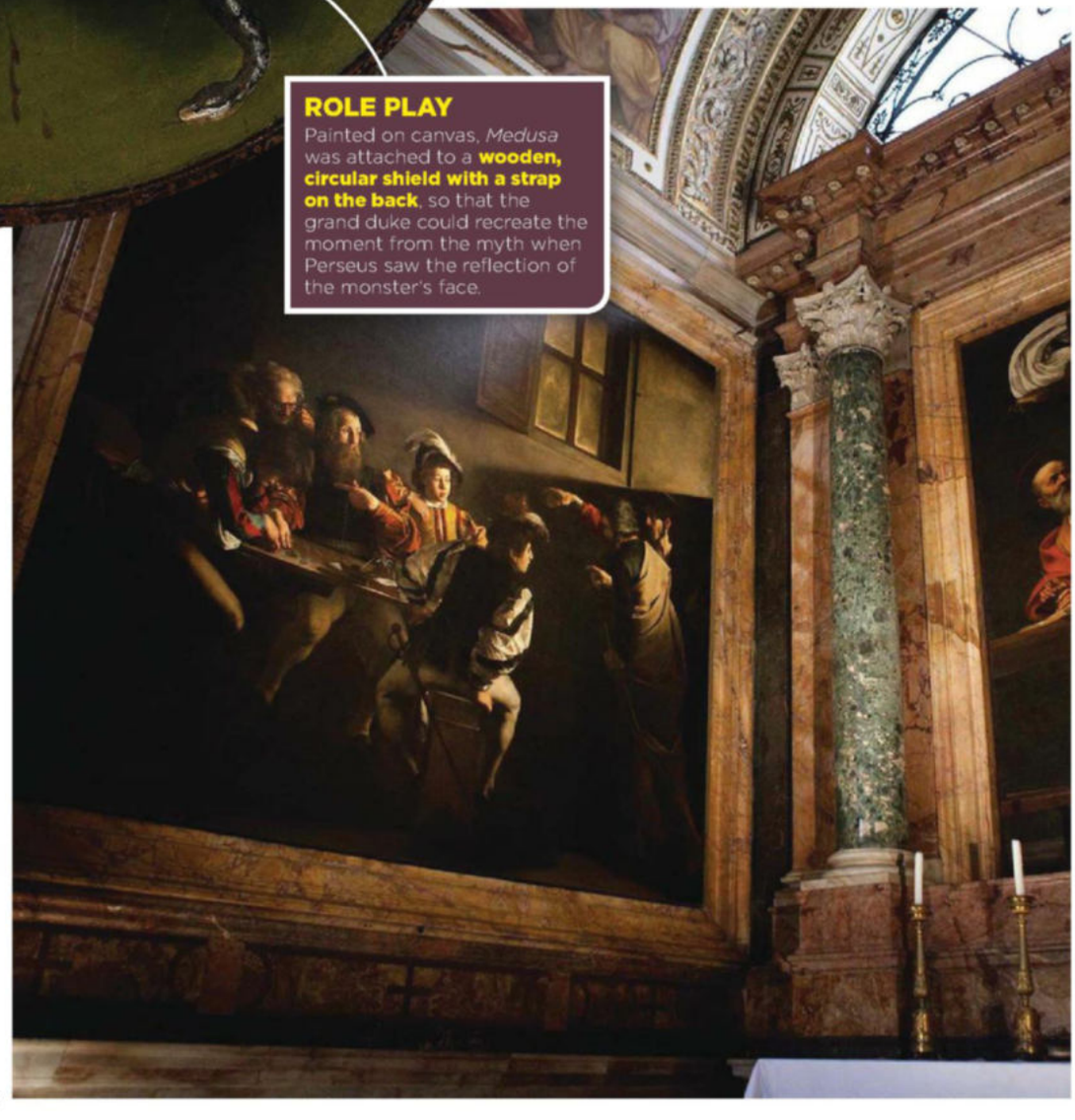
ADMIRE OR ADMONISH

The two paintings, revealed in 1600, portrayed scenes from the life of Saint Matthew – the moments when Jesus Christ calls Matthew into his company

"In painting a man of worth is one who knows how to paint well and imitate natural objects well"
Caravaggio

MEDUSA, 1596-97
◀ Caravaggio's unusual painting is the earliest-known depiction of an overly violent scene – it was painted for the Medici grand duke of Tuscany, who identified himself with Perseus, the mythological Greek hero who slayed the snake-haired Gorgon, Medusa

THE CALLING OF SAINT MATTHEW, 1600
▼ This is one of two masterpieces for the Contarelli Chapel, which catapulted Caravaggio into fame and notoriety. Evident is Caravaggio's typical style of setting biblical tales in the present day, as well as his mastery of light and dark, which he uses to illuminate certain sections of the scene





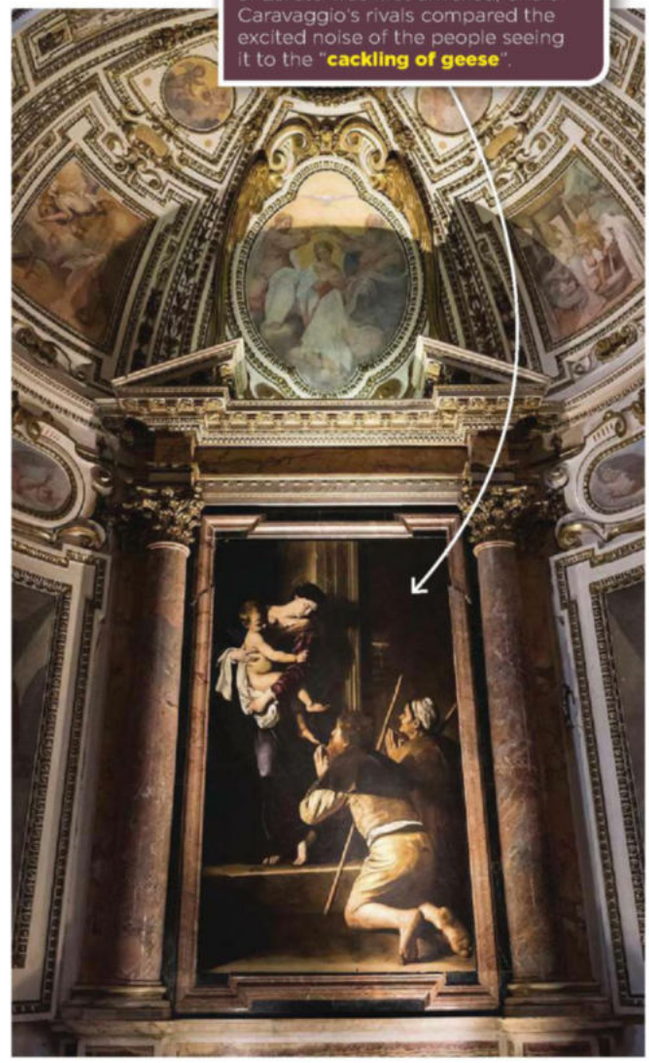
THE TAKING OF CHRIST, 1602
▲ The focus is Judas kissing Jesus (to identify him for the Roman soldiers), but the truly remarkable technical aspect of this masterpiece is the extremely realistic suit of armour, glinting in the light

and the apostle's ultimate martyrdom. They were an instant phenomenon. Admired by some and admonished by others, the paintings brought thousands of visitors to the church, inspired discussion and established Caravaggio's reputation as a visionary – albeit a contentious one. He became the city's most sought-after artist, spending the next few years fulfilling a host of commissions. The results were always divisive, and sometimes too much for those who ordered them. A couple of years after his meteoric rise, Caravaggio was invited to paint another scene for the same chapel, but that finished work, *St Matthew and the Angel* (1602), was deemed too offensive as it showed the saint as a bald peasant with dirty legs. Caravaggio was asked to do it again.

This wasn't the only time Caravaggio's first attempt was rejected on religious grounds, but that didn't stop him pushing the established boundaries of style and taste. He faced stern opposition from more conservative members of the clergy, who saw Caravaggio's representations of holy figures and his practice of selecting his models from the streets as tantamount to blasphemy. *The Grooms' Madonna* (1605–06), painted for a church in the Vatican, was removed after just two days, as its naked boy Jesus and slightly sexualised, barefoot Virgin Mary caused outrage. One comment on the painting read: "In this painting, there are but vulgarity, sacrilege, impiousness and disgust... One would say it is a work made by a painter that can paint well, but of a dark spirit, and who has been for a lot of time far from God, from His adoration, and from any good thought."

He also had a public, bitter spat with a rival, Giovanni Baglione, which ended in Caravaggio being sued for libel. If found guilty, he could have been sentenced to life rowing the papal galleys – a fate he only avoided thanks to his powerful friends, who saw him released in September 1603. Despite these attacks on his character and career, this was a prolific time for Caravaggio, resulting in some of his most famous works, such as *The Taking of Christ* (*above*) and *Death of the Virgin* (*right*).

GAGGLES AND CACKLES
When the altarpiece of the *Madonna of Loreto* was first unveiled, one of Caravaggio's rivals compared the excited noise of the people seeing it to the "**cackling of geese**".



MADONNA OF LORETO, c1604
▲ Rather than portraying a glorified Virgin Mary, Caravaggio shows her human beauty. She is barefoot, like the kneeling peasants, and is plainly dressed. Even her halo looks meek compared to the iconography of the time

Nonetheless, the success and wealth he enjoyed did little to improve Caravaggio's violent tendencies, his love of brawling or sleeping around. As his contemporary biographer, Carel Van Mander, wrote: "After two weeks of work, he will sally forth for two months together with his rapier at his side and his servant-boy after him... always ready to argue or fight so that he is impossible to get along with."

INTO EXILE

Even at a time when brawls were common, Caravaggio's behaviour stood out as particularly remarkable. He was in and out of trial until May 1606, when he killed a dangerous pimp named Ranuccio Tomassoni in a duel and had to flee Rome. The motives for the attack remain unclear, with theories suggesting an argument broke out over a tennis game or that Caravaggio – himself a pimp – was removing a rival. The most likely cause is that the two men quarrelled over Caravaggio's lover, Lavinia, who just happened to be Tomassoni's wife. Caravaggio allegedly



MARTIN SCORSESE, FILM DIRECTOR
"If Caravaggio were alive today, he would have loved the cinema... There's something that shows a real street knowledge of the sinner; his sacred paintings are profane"

ALAMY X2, GETTY X2



DEATH OF THE VIRGIN, 1601-06
▶ One of Caravaggio's most famous works, this is another example of a realistic and natural Virgin Mary, this time at her death while the weeping Apostles surround her body. It was rejected by the monks of the church where it was unveiled and swiftly removed

"There was art before him and after him, and they were not the same"

Art critic Robert Hughes

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

The almost undignified appearance of the Virgin Mary – **lolling head, hanging arm and swollen feet** – may have been the reason given for the Church's animosity towards this work, but the fact that Caravaggio used a well-known prostitute as the model can't have helped.

CECCO DEL CARAVAGGIO

The young boy seen here as David appears in several of Caravaggio's works, and was his servant in Rome. It is thought by some art historians that **the two were lovers**.

DAVID WITH THE HEAD OF GOLIATH, c1607

▲ As this was painted after murdering a man in Rome, was Caravaggio hoping to demonstrate his repentance with the biblical scene of David defeating the mighty Goliath? The severed head does resemble the artist's own features, after all

THE DENIAL OF SAINT PETER, 1610

▶ Alongside *The Martyrdom of Saint Ursula* (1610), this is one of Caravaggio's final paintings. As it was completed after his brutal attack in Naples in 1609, it has led historians and art critics to believe that Caravaggio never fully recovered, as seen through the rougher brush strokes. He may have been suffering from eye problems or shaky hands





DAVID HOCKNEY, ENGLISH ARTIST
"He invented a black world that had not existed before, certainly not in Florence or Rome. Caravaggio invented Hollywood lighting."

stabbed his victim in the groin, marking the attack as sexually motivated.

Leaving Rome, Caravaggio made his way to Naples. There, he continued to paint, completing *Madonna of the Rosary* (1607) and *The Seven Works of Mercy* (c1607). He could have lived out his days in relative comfort there, but his intention was always to return to Rome. To achieve his goal, Caravaggio travelled to Malta in the hope of winning favour with the revered Knights of Malta, who could secure him a pardon. All was going to plan – the Knights asked him to paint a scene of the beheading of John the Baptist and had made him a member of their order. But things went awry shortly before his painting was due to be unveiled, when Caravaggio – in a typical display of self-destruction – attacked and wounded one of the Knights. On the run again, the artist's chances of a pardon were now somewhat diminished.

Caravaggio painted his way through Sicily, Messina and Palermo before going back to Naples. His style at this time was certainly more subdued than the hubris seen in his younger days, and it is thought that Caravaggio grew more and more paranoid the longer he spent in exile. He would sleep fully clothed and armed. Perhaps his fears were justified as, in 1609, he was attacked outside an inn and cut so badly across his face that rumours spread implying the artist was dead. It could have been yet another random, drunken brawl, but it is possible that Caravaggio was pursued by a Knight of Malta, seeking vengeance.

After a long and tough recovery, Caravaggio painted his final works, but it is clear that the wounds to his face affected his eyesight, as the brush strokes on those pieces are nowhere near as sharp and clear as his former standard. Yet – as he grew more despondent, weak and tired of travelling – fresh hopes of a pardon emerged. In the summer of 1610, Caravaggio set sail for Rome on what he hoped would be a victorious journey home. But it wasn't to be. Details of what happened next are sketchy, but it is thought Caravaggio was waylaid on the way and lost several of his paintings when they were boarded onto the wrong ship. As he attempted to catch up with them, he died – possibly due to heat exhaustion, stress or, as recent evidence suggests, lead poisoning from his own paint. He was 38 years old.

Caravaggio may have, quite literally, given his life for his art, and his art was borne from his troubled and dramatic life. Without his temper and violence, which brought the power of the law down on him, Caravaggio wouldn't have created the masterpieces that saw him go up against the Church and artistic tradition. He is the embodiment of a tortured genius, and – despite never setting foot again in Rome – left a lasting legacy in that Renaissance city and beyond. As his epitaph reads, Caravaggio was: "In painting not equal to a painter, but to Nature himself."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Caravaggio was the most famous painter in Europe, but was he the most important?
Email: **editor@historyrevealed.com**



SUPPER AT EMMAUS, 1601
▼ This is a very characteristic painting of Caravaggio's – it exhibits his dramatic use of tenebrism (see below) and his habit of working directly on the canvas

LIGHT AND DARK
CARAVAGGIO'S CHIAROSCURO

Long before Caravaggio, artists had been using the strong contrasts between light and dark, in a technique known as 'chiaroscuro'. What the Italian did was to emphasise the difference between the two – essentially making the darkness darker and the light more blinding – so that it became a dominant stylistic device in art, 'tenebrism'.

The 17th-century Italian painter and biographer wrote that Caravaggio "*Went so far in this style that he never showed any of his figures in open daylight, but instead found a way to place them in the darkness of a closed room, placing a lamp high so that the light would fall straight down, revealing the principal part of the body and leaving the rest in shadow.*"

The introduction of tenebrism by Caravaggio not only influenced artists in the centuries after his death, but its impact can still be seen among filmmakers today. Contrasted with the shadows in his paintings, the intense shards of light resemble cinematic spotlights. Acclaimed director Martin Scorsese admits that Caravaggio "Would have been a great filmmaker" and describes his use of light and dark as, "Different from the composition of the paintings that preceded it. It was like modern staging in film – it was so powerful and direct."

ALAMY X2, GETTY X2



A WELCOME SPLASH
After seven dry months spent well-hopping across Australia, Robyn Davidson and her camel Bub luxuriate in the waters of the Indian Ocean

OUTBACK QUEEN

Almost 40 years have passed since Robyn Davidson suffered desert heat, freezing nights, animal attacks and tragedy as she guided her party of creatures through Australia's wilds. **Pat Kinsella** reveals how she overcame all obstacles...

RICK SMOLAN / CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES X2


"I love the desert and its incomparable sense of space. I enjoy being with Aborigines and learning from them" Robyn Davidson

There's initially nothing remarkable about a young Australian student leaving university to go travelling. However, Robyn Davidson didn't follow the well-worn Aussie backpack-thongs-and-bongs trail through Asia to London. Instead, she made her own distinct tracks, embarking on an extraordinary journey through the centre of Australia, with four camels, a dog called Diggity and a gun.

In seven months in 1977, she traipsed across 1,700 miles of terrifically unforgiving terrain, from the rusty red hills around Alice Springs to the sensational surf of the Indian Ocean on the wild coast of Western Australia.

It was a deeply personal and very eccentric odyssey, yet it echoed an age-old Australian tradition sometimes described (somewhat derisively by a culture that doesn't understand it) as 'going walkabout'. The Indigenous people of the central deserts have been following unseeable routes – known as songlines – through the harsh terrain since the Dream Time, and during her journey, Davidson enjoyed encounters with her country's traditional custodians that very few ever experience.

GETTING OVER THE HUMP

Before leaving, Davidson tapped into another source of ancient knowledge. Quitting her Japanese course at a university in Brisbane, she travelled to the Red Centre and sought out Sallay Mahomet, an Australian-born descendent of the Afghan cameleers, who were imported with their beasts in the late 19th century to lay railway tracks across the southern continent.

Davidson spent months working with Mahomet, learning how to handle camels and getting to know the animals upon which she would completely depend. Camels might be ships of the desert, but their mutinous tendencies are as legendary as their endurance.

She selected four camels to accompany her: a mature, gelded male called Dookie; a young gelding named Bub; and a female, Zeleika, with her calf, Goliath, in tow. Camels don't come free, though, and neither do saddles and all the other equipment required to drive a mini-caravan across the desert. On top of her chores for Mahomet, Davidson worked part-time jobs, borrowed from friends and eventually compromised on her desire to walk under the radar and applied for a National Geographic Society grant.

She got the grant, in exchange for the promise of a story, but it came at a cost – she had to be photographed along the way. With reservations, she agreed, on the proviso that the shooter was Rick Smolan, a professional photographer she'd previously met in Alice Springs.

Smolan would drive out and meet Davidson five times during her journey, each time spending several days shadowing her progress and documenting the experience, from the lonely majesty of the surroundings to the





INTO THE UNKNOWN
CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: **Robyn, Diggity and the camels trek along Australia's famous red dust; Robyn had learnt how to take care of her camels before her expedition; the scarcity of water meant that navigation to known wells was vital; Robyn tries to encourage Dookie to stand after a fall**
BELOW: **Rick Smolan's photographs for *National Geographic* highlighted the sheer scale of Robyn's daring trek across Australia's unforgiving Outback**



THE MAIN PLAYERS

ROBYN DAVIDSON

Prior to her desert-crossing, Davidson was a part of the Sydney-based Australian intellectual/libertarian collective The Push, along with Germaine Greer and Clive James. Afterwards, she became involved in the Aboriginal Land Rights movement.

RICK SMOLAN

New Yorker Smolan was in Australia on assignment for *Time* magazine when he first met Davidson. Subsequently he launched the *Day in the Life* series of photography books.

MR EDDIE

A Pitjantjatjara elder who joined Davidson on the track for three weeks as she crossed the Gibson Desert towards Warburton. Afterwards, she described their time together on the trail as "the heart of my entire journey".

SALLAY MAHOMET

An Australian-born Afghan and veteran camel handler, who taught Davidson how to train her camels.

RICK SMOLAN / CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES X5





840

The total length, in miles, of the infamous rough-as-guts Gunbarrel Highway

minutia of her day-to-day existence. His shots captured something magical, but she wore his presence with much reluctance at the outset, even if a romantic relationship did eventually flower in the desert.

MAKING TRACKS

The long walk began at a tourist camp on the Finke riverbed on the dusty outskirts of Alice Springs, where she was dropped by Mahomet and her father. It was an unofficial boundary line between the two distinct countries of Australia: on one side a post-colonial society desperately clinging to its European sensibilities; on the other a loose-knit scattering of indigenous communities, thinly spread across the enormity of the Outback, living largely as they had done for millennia.

Then, as now, there was little understanding or meaningful communication between the two nations, yet Davidson – the blonde-haired, fair-skinned epitome of polite white Australia – was about to embark on a journey that somehow bridged the gaping cultural chasm. Saying farewell to friends at Redbank Gorge, the 25-year-old didn't know what lay ahead of her, beyond the lonely embrace of the desert.

It took Davidson four days to reach the Aboriginal settlement of Areyonga. During that time, she experienced and temporarily exorcised many of the demons that would revisit her all across the continent. She'd felt the cold claws of agoraphobic terror seize her heart at the thought of being lost, and she'd woken in the night convinced that her camels had abandoned her.

The warm welcome Davidson received at Areyonga, where she stayed for three days while the camels rested, was a pattern that would be repeated throughout the trip. From here she crossed the highlands to Tempe Downs, and then struck out for Uluru (Ayres Rock), pursued all the way by the tenacious flies of the

Australian Outback that feed on moisture from perspiring pores and eyeballs. The party reached the rock 21 days after leaving Glen Helen, having walked 250 miles.

After a brief rest they set off again across Lasseter's Country, when disaster struck. During a rare rainstorm, Dookie fell in the suddenly slippery conditions, badly damaging his shoulder. Limping onwards, with Davidson wrestling with the horrific possibility that she might have to shoot her strongest animal, the party reached Docker River on the edge of the Gibson Desert. Here they rested for several weeks while Dookie recovered.

A new danger loomed once they resumed the journey. Central Australia is home to hundreds of thousands of feral camels, the offspring of those Afghan animals brought over to build the railways, which have thrived in the hostile conditions of the Outback. Mahomet had warned Davidson that wild bull camels in rut (an annual period of heightened sex drive) can be lethally dangerous, and one day she looked up to see three such camels approaching, on the scent of Zeleika. Recalling Mahomet's advice, Davidson drew her rifle and shot two of the bull animals dead.

Just over two months into the trek, she reached a point where any navigational error could have resulted in complete calamity. She'd staked her life on locating a well among a sandscape comprised entirely of identical dunes. Her aim was straight and, with rations running dangerously low, she found the well, which she discovered was mercifully full of water.

OLD FRIENDS

Davidson was perhaps most comfortable when in the presence of the Pitjantjatjara, and one experience more than any other defined the journey. Somewhere between the settlements of Wingelinna and Pipalyatjara, she met a group of Pitjantjatjara men travelling by car. They chatted over billy tea, shared a camp, and the following morning decided that one of their number, an elder called Mr Eddie, would accompany her the rest of the way to Pipalyatjara.

Despite the language barrier, the two struck up a great friendship based on humour and mutual respect. This bond was so strong that when they arrived in Pipalyatjara, Mr Eddie decided he'd walk with her all the way to Warburton, a further 180km through the Gibson Desert.

Davidson delighted in the company of this extraordinary man, with laughter in his eyes and 30,000 years of accumulated knowledge in his mind. The two of them cut an incongruous couple – a pretty young western women, covered head-to-sandals in red dust, and a wise old white-haired Aboriginal elder chuckling away and chewing pauri (a native narcotic tobacco plant).

Their appearance drew an excited response from one group of Aussie tourists, who pulled up in their four-wheel drives. Davidson was mortified at their derogatory language when addressing her friend, but Mr Eddie saw them off in hilarious fashion by rushing them with his stick and demanding money for the photographs they'd taken of him, using mock-Aboriginal language and exaggerated outrage.

STARING DOWN THE BARREL

After bidding Mr Eddie farewell, Davidson had 350 miles of the infamous Gunbarrel Highway to contend with – a dirt road running through the Gibson Desert that's so arid one of Robyn's friends had to make water drops along its length. The camels finally mutinied here one morning, with Zeleika and Bub breaking camp and disappearing. Davidson found them again, but it cost her four hours, and in the meantime Dookie had injured his foot.

At Carnegie, relief at reaching the end of the Gunbarrel was shattered when the station proved empty of supplies, forcing Davidson to divert 75 miles northwest to Glenayle. Before she arrived, her food rations ran so low that she had to share Diggity's dog biscuits, but in Glenayle a hospitable family took the whole sorry-looking party in and got them back on track.

The legendary 1,000-mile-long Canning Stock Route was the next stage, although they only needed to negotiate 170 miles of it, from Glenayle to Cunyu, travelling from well to well. The landscape changed here, and the season was on the turn; for the first time in months, they saw fresh foliage, which provided a feast for the camels.

750,000
The estimated number of feral camels that roam the Australian Outback

Sadly, though, tragedy suddenly struck. Diggity swallowed dingo bait and Davidson was forced to shoot her best friend to put her out of her misery. Grief stricken, she reached Cunyu on 27 August, to find her story had reached the public's attention and the media was waiting. In no mood for talking to the press, she retreated to Wiluna, 40 miles to the south, to get her head straight before making the final push to the ocean.

END OF THE ROAD

On this final stretch, Zeleika fell ill, suffering with internal bleeding. Davidson feared she wouldn't get through, but after a little R&R on a kindly cattle station in Dalgety Downs, the camel regained her strength.

A few days after setting off again, another couple of hospitable homesteaders offered the whole peculiar party a lift on their flatbed truck and, having walked and ridden over 1,600 miles from Alice Springs, she accepted the offer. The team travelled in a vehicle for 30 of the remaining 36 miles to the coast and the finish line.

Two hours after getting dropped off, having reached a gap in the dunes, Davidson glimpsed the glimmer and shimmer of sunlight dancing on the waves of the Indian Ocean. She'd reached Shark Bay – her mission was complete. It was 20 October 1977 and after seven months she and her four camels finally reached the end of the track. The camels were so excited they even tried to drink the seawater.



CLOSE COMPANIONS
CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: **Aboriginal elder Mr Eddie joined the party for three weeks; Robyn and her loyal dog Diggity; Rick Smolan on one of his rendezvous with the party; Robyn and the camels at the end of their journey**

GET HOOKED

READ
Tracks (latest edition, 2013) – Robyn Davidson's lively and well-written autobiographical book about her experience in the desert.

WATCH
Tracks (2013) – an award-winning feature film that recreates the adventure, directed by John Curran and starring Australian actor Mia Wasikowska in the role of Davidson.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

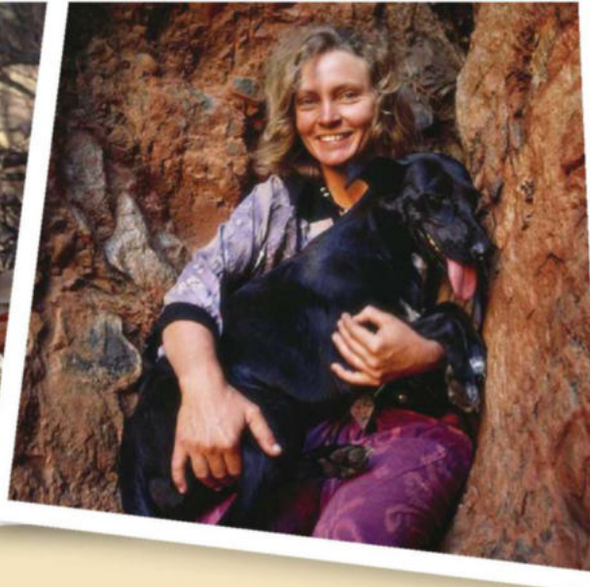
Can you think of any other Great Adventures that you'd like to see appear in the magazine?
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The four camels went to live with the Woodleigh homesteaders, David and Jan Thomson, who'd given the party a lift at the end of their journey, while Davidson initially went back to Australia's east coast. The *National Geographic* article about her expedition was published as a cover story in 1978, and was met with such acclaim that she wrote a book about the experience, called *Tracks*. During the writing process she moved to London and lived with the author Doris Lessing, and after its publication she had a relationship with Salman Rushdie. Years later she did another trek, walking ancient migratory paths with the Rabari, pastoral nomads of north-west India, recorded in the book *Desert Places*.

RICK SMOLAN / CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES X4, ILLUSTRATION: SUE GENT









INTO THE OUTBACK

Davidson travelled directly west from just outside Alice Springs until she met the Indian Ocean at Shark Bay, passing through large swathes of the Gibson Desert. In this brutally beautiful and utterly arid desert, maps were often untrustworthy and one missed waterhole could have proved catastrophic. She also travelled through winter, when nights would have been freezing cold.

1 8 APRIL 1977
Glen Helen Tourist Camp, 80 miles west of Alice Springs
After more than a year of preparation and training, Robyn Davidson sets off towards the west coast, with Diggity the dog and her four camels: Dookie, Bub, Zeleika and baby Goliath.

2 29 APRIL
Uluru (Ayers Rock)
Davidson proves her navigational capabilities, successfully seeing the party through the mountains and tricky terrain around Tempe Downs to arrive at the Rock. Shortly after leaving, however, Dookie falls and is injured.

3 16 JUNE
Docker River
Having rested for several weeks for Dookie's recovery, the party sets off but quickly encounters wild bull camels 'in rut'. Davidson has to shoot two of them before they can continue.

4 22 JUNE
Just after Wingelinna
Davidson meets a group of Pitjantjatjara people, including Mr Eddie, who joins her on the journey.

5 JULY 15
Warburton
With the camels fully laden with water supplies, Davidson and her menagerie set off from Warburton along the Gunbarrel Highway.

6 EARLY AUGUST
250 miles along the Gunbarrel Highway
The lone wanderer wakes to find two of her camels have gone, and she spends hours rounding them up. Upon reaching the end of the brutal Gunbarrel Highway, she discovers the Carnegie cattle station is empty, and has to divert 75 miles northwest to Glenayle to find emergency food.

7 18 AUGUST
On the Canning Stock Route
After spending three nights in an idyllic spot that Davidson described as "perfection", Diggity the dog eats dingo poison. A heartbroken Davidson is forced to shoot her best friend. She quickly resumes her journey.

8 27 AUGUST
Cunyu
Davidson arrives to discover that news of her story has broken, and a media scrum is waiting.

9 MID SEPTEMBER
Dalgety Downs cattle station
The party are taken in and treated by homesteaders David and Margot Steadman, and Zeleika is nursed back to heath.

10 OCTOBER 1977
Shark Bay
Having traversed 1,700 miles across some of the planet's toughest and most arid terrain, Davidson and her camels wash the red desert sand from their bodies in the Indian Ocean.



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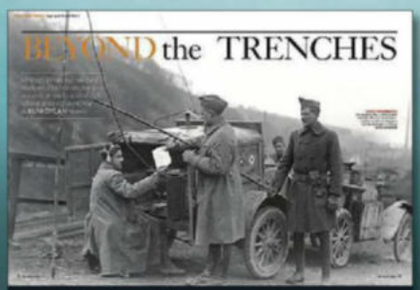
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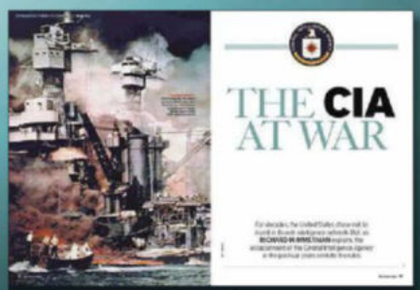
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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

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OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)

GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories series* and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)

SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects

MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University

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THAT'S A SNUFF
Sneezes were common after a pinch of snuff but they would be mocked as the sign of a beginner

DID YOU KNOW?

PAYING A HIGH PRICE
When Alaric the Visigoth besieged Rome in AD 408, the price he set for departure was 5,000 pounds of gold, 30,000 pounds of silver and 3,000 pounds of pepper, together with 4,000 silk shirts and 3,000 red-dyed animal skins. The Goths were nothing if not fashionable.

WHAT WAS SNUFF?

A finely-ground smokeless tobacco inhaled through the nostrils, 'taking snuff' originated in the Americas and was introduced into Spain following Columbus's second voyage to the New World in the 1490s. The supposed medicinal properties of tobacco saw it spread around Europe, rising in fortune in the 1560s when the French Queen Catherine de' Medici declared it a wonder for headaches (it had been recommended by John Nicot, who later gave his name to nicotine).

The fashion spread throughout Europe, and by the 1700s snuff was considered a luxury product and mark of refinement. Though the stereotypical image of the snuff-taker is the Georgian dandy, it was also popular among women – George III's queen was so fond of it that she earned the nickname 'Snuffy Charlotte'. As with most fashions it fell from favour, as new stimulants appeared. **EB**

TOPFOTO

HAVE ALL ENGLISH KINGS BEEN BURIED IN ENGLAND?

Given that the rulers' domains straddled the Channel, it's not surprising that William the Conqueror (Caen, Normandy), Henry II and Richard the Lionheart (both Fontevreau Abbey, France) were laid to rest outside of England. Less memorable is that James II and VII was buried in Paris in 1701, having been exiled following the Glorious Revolution.

Furthermore, when Queen Anne died and James's Catholic heirs were exempted from the succession, Britain ended up with the German-speaking George I. He died in 1727, while on a visit to his native Hanover, and so was buried in Leine Castle. His remains were moved to Herrenhausen in 1957. **GJ**



FOREIGN BURIAL
The tomb of Richard the Lionheart in France

DID YOU KNOW?

SELFLESS STATUE

The statue of 'Eros' in the fountain in London's Piccadilly Circus isn't actually Eros at all, but his twin brother Anteros, Greek god of selfless love. He's a memorial to the philanthropic life of the 7th Lord Shaftesbury; the sculpture's real name is the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain.



PALACE OF REFLECTION
The Hall of Mirrors – with its 357 looking glasses – was added to Versailles in 1678

How much did it cost to build Versailles?

The Palace of Versailles, France's extravagant former royal residence and centre of government, was one of the most expensive building projects in history.

It didn't start that way, however, as all King Louis XIII wanted was a hunting lodge for his family. It was his son, Louis XIV – the Sun King, famous for his bling – who made things bigger and more lavish throughout the second half of the 17th century.

Ministers originally tried to minimise costs by taking the building materials from within France, even going so far as nationalising a tapestry factory. But expenses continued to rocket and initial estimates ended up a fraction of the eventual price tag.

Due to a lack of data, and historical currency conversion being arcane at the best of times, calculating the cost is tricky. In 1994, American TV company PBS concluded that the French palace could have cost anywhere between $2-300 billion in today's money. **SL**

12

The age by which girls could marry, providing parental consent was given, until 1929, when it was raised to 16 for both sexes (it had been 14 for boys).



WHO INVENTED THE BRA?

Bikini-like breast-bands are known to have been around in the ancient world. But, in 2008, archaeologists investigating a rubbish pit in Lengberg Castle, Austria, discovered a cache of clothing, including underpants and four very modern-looking 'bras', complete with 'bags' – what we would call 'cups'. Carbon dating shows the bras were worn sometime between 1440 and 1485.

In 1889, a German woman, Christine Hardt, received a patent for a modern bra. However, in 1914 socialite Mary Phelps Jacob famously patented an invention she'd created from some handkerchiefs and a piece of pink ribbon one night before going out. This 'backless brassiere' became the basis for the bras we know today. SL

"I WAS THE CONDUCTOR OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FOR EIGHT YEARS, AND I CAN SAY WHAT MOST CONDUCTORS CAN'T — I NEVER RAN MY TRAIN OFF THE TRACK AND I NEVER LOST A PASSENGER ***HARRIET TUBMAN***



Born a slave in the US state of Maryland, Harriet Tubman escaped to the slave-free North and became famous for conducting rescue missions to free slaves. She used a network of abolitionists and safe houses, dubbed the Underground Railroad, with which she rescued some 70 slaves. The during the American Civil War, Tubman worked as an agent for the Union, campaigning passionately for women's suffrage.

IN A NUTSHELL

THE PUNIC WARS

For nearly 80 years, Rome and Carthage fought for supremacy at sea, on land and from the backs of elephants...



ITALIAN INVASION
Hannibal leads his Carthaginian army during the Second Punic War

What were they and who fought them?
The Punic Wars were a series of conflicts fought by the powerful cities of Carthage and Rome between 264 BC and 146 BC. The period is usually split into three distinct wars – the First was from 264–241 BC, the Second between 218–201 BC and the Third started in 149 BC and ended, bringing the Punic Wars to a conclusion, in 146 BC.

Why 'Punic'?
The word 'Punic' actually comes from the word 'Phoenician' (*phoinix* in Greek or *punicus* in Latin), and refers to the citizens of Carthage, who were descended from the Phoenicians.

How and why did they begin?
Rome in 264 BC was a relatively small city – a far cry from its later superiority – and it was the city of Carthage (located in what we now know as Tunisia) that reigned supreme in the ancient world. Tensions arose between the cities over who should have control of the strategic island of Sicily.

Although relations were generally friendly, Rome's intervention in a dispute on the island saw the cities explode into conflict. In 264 BC, war was officially declared for control of Sicily.



CLASH AT SEA
The Roman fleet defeats Carthage in the First Punic War

Rome built and equipped over 100 ships to take on the Carthaginian navy and finally, in 241 BC, was able to win a decisive victory against the Carthaginians at sea. In the peace treaty, Rome gained Sicily, its first overseas province.

Who were Hannibal and Scipio and what were their contributions to the conflict?
In 219 BC, Hannibal (son of Hamilcar Barca, a Carthaginian general during the First Punic War) broke the tentative peace between the two cities and laid siege to Saguntum (in eastern Spain), then an ally of Rome. Furious at Hannibal's audacity, the Romans demanded that he be handed over for punishment. This order was ignored by the Carthaginian senate, and so the Second Punic War began.

Roman General Publius Cornelius Scipio (later known as Scipio Africanus) emerged in opposition to Hannibal during this conflict. Famously, the Carthaginian proceeded to march his forces over the Alps, along with his elephants, and conquered much of northern Italy. Hannibal faced the Romans, including Scipio, at the Battle of Cannae in 216 BC – he won a great victory that saw some 70,000 Romans killed compared to just 6,000 Carthaginians.

Not a man to be beaten, Scipio – a admirer of Hannibal – turned the situation around at the Battle of Zama in 202 BC. Hannibal's elephant charge was deflected back into the Carthaginian ranks, followed by a combined cavalry and infantry advance, which crushed Hannibal's forces.

Carthage was ordered to surrender its navy, pay Rome a war debt of 200 talents of gold every year for 50 years, and was prevented from waging war with anyone without Roman approval.

If Carthage had been crushed, why did war break out for a third time in 149 BC?
Carthage paid its war debt to Rome over 50 years, until 149 BC. Then, deeming the treaty to be complete, the city went to war against Numidia, in what is now Algeria. Not only did they lose the war, but Carthage incurred the wrath of Rome, who again deemed its old foe a threat. This time, Carthage was to be put down permanently.

That same year, a Roman embassy was sent to Carthage to demand that the city be dismantled and moved inland away from the coast. When the Carthaginians refused, the Third War broke out. Roman forces besieged Carthage for three years, until it finally fell in 146 BC. The city was sacked and burned to the ground where it lay in ruin for more than a century, with its inhabitants sold into slavery.

What were the long-term implications of the wars?
By the time the Punic Wars ended, Rome had blossomed from a small trading city into a formidable naval force. With no serious threat coming from Carthage, the Romans had the power to expand into an empire that would rule the known world.



BATTLE OF ZAMA
Scipio leads the Romans to a decisive victory over Hannibal

ART ARCHIVE X1, ALAMY X2, GETTY X3, ISTOCK X1

HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

TENOCHTITLÁN

Built on an island in the middle of a lake, the Aztec capital grew into an awe-inspiring mega-city that stunned its European discoverers



The Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán was founded in 1325 when, according to legend, the Mexica people had a vision of an eagle eating a snake atop a cactus. They believed this was a sign from the gods that they had reached the spot where a great city was destined to be built. And despite being on a small, muddy island in Lake Texcoco, Mexico, an immense complex of temples, bustling marketplaces and sophisticated infrastructure was born. At its peak, Tenochtitlán was home to a quarter of a million people, making it one of the world's largest cities. It continued to thrive until 1521, when Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés captured the city.

TEMPLO MAYOR

Tenochtitlán's 60m-high Templo Mayor was consecrated to Tláloc, god of rain and fertility, and Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec god of war.

TEMPLE OF DOOM

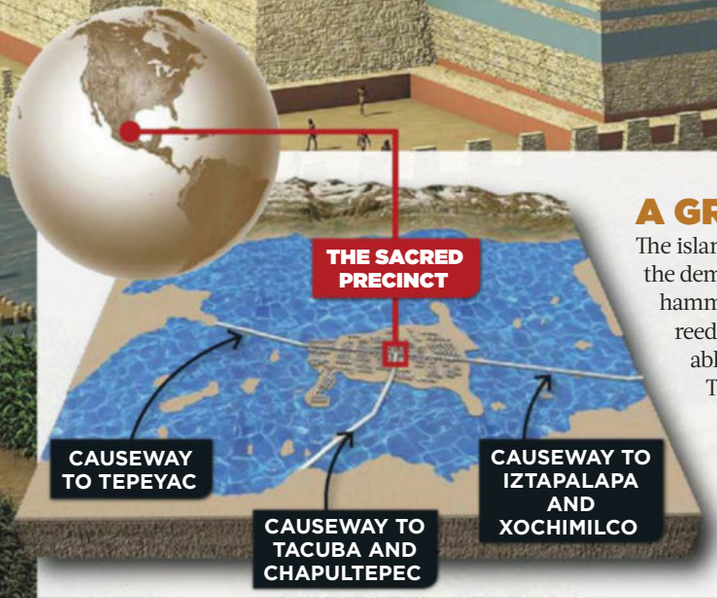
The Templo Mayor was the site of tens of thousands of human sacrifices. Over the four-day opening ceremony in 1487, some 4,000 prisoners of war had their hearts removed (while still alive) to honour the temple.

QUETZALCOATL

In contrast to other Aztec buildings, the temple dedicated to the serpent god Quetzalcoatl was round in shape.

SACRED PRECINCT

At the heart of the city was the Sacred Precinct, surrounded by temples (including the Templo Mayor) and areas of worship. Allegedly, there were 78 structures there.

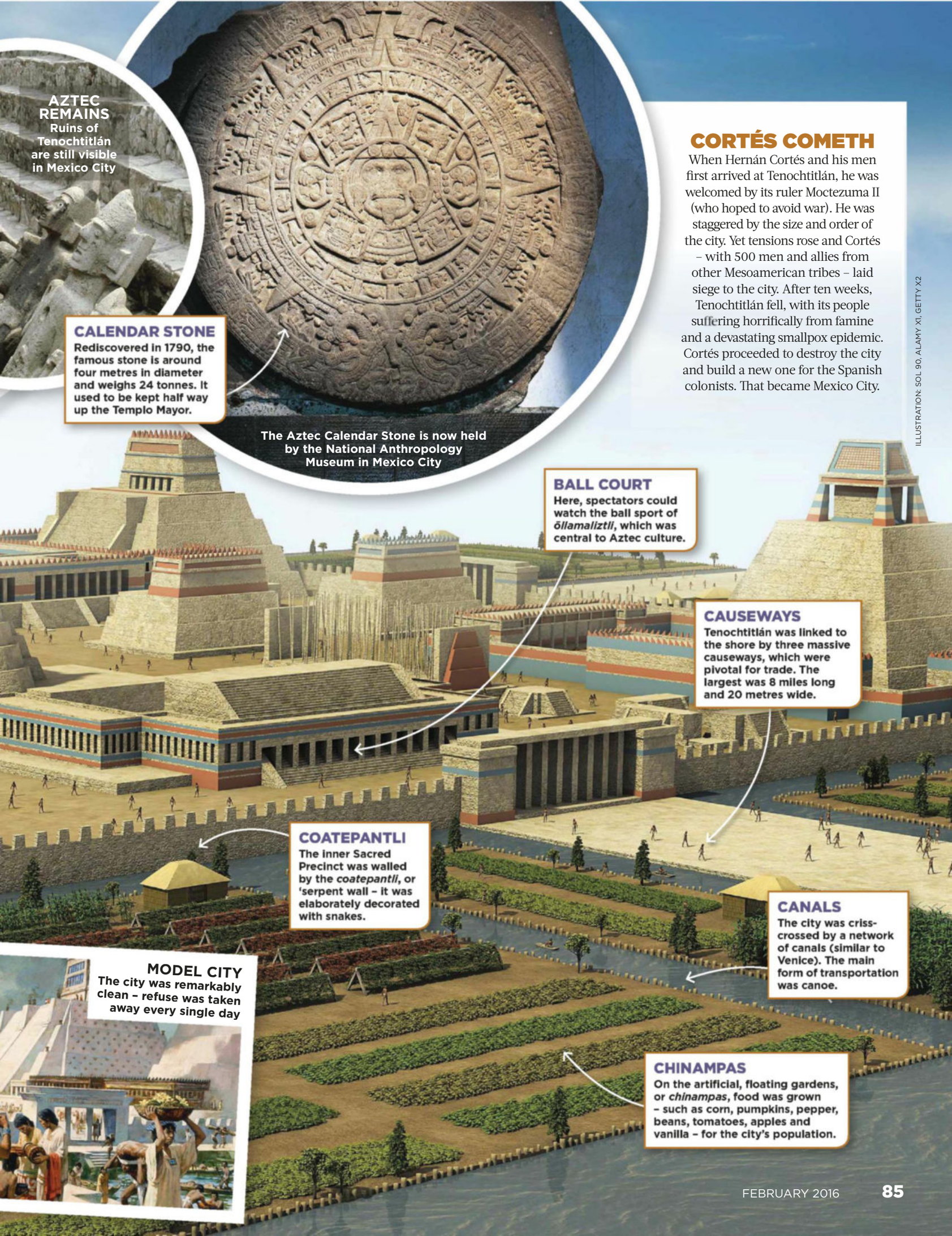


A GROWING CITY

The island where Tenochtitlán was built proved to be too small for the demands of the busy metropolis, so the Aztecs had to expand. By hammering stakes into the lake bed, lashing them together with reeds, and then piling in earth and rocks, they were essentially able to make land – allowing the city to continue growing.

Tenochtitlán was split into 20 districts, or *calpulli*, which were relatively autonomous and had their own temples, schools and markets. Running through the city were the roads that led to the three causeways across the lake. Bridges along each causeway allowed canoes to pass, and could also be pulled away as an effective defensive measure to protect the city from attack.





AZTEC REMAINS

Ruins of Tenochtitlán are still visible in Mexico City

CALENDAR STONE

Rediscovered in 1790, the famous stone is around four metres in diameter and weighs 24 tonnes. It used to be kept half way up the Templo Mayor.

The Aztec Calendar Stone is now held by the National Anthropology Museum in Mexico City

CORTÉS COMETH

When Hernán Cortés and his men first arrived at Tenochtitlán, he was welcomed by its ruler Moctezuma II (who hoped to avoid war). He was staggered by the size and order of the city. Yet tensions rose and Cortés – with 500 men and allies from other Mesoamerican tribes – laid siege to the city. After ten weeks, Tenochtitlán fell, with its people suffering horrifically from famine and a devastating smallpox epidemic. Cortés proceeded to destroy the city and build a new one for the Spanish colonists. That became Mexico City.

ILLUSTRATION: SOL 90, ALAMY XI, GETTY X2

BALL COURT

Here, spectators could watch the ball sport of *ōllamaliztli*, which was central to Aztec culture.

CAUSEWAYS

Tenochtitlán was linked to the shore by three massive causeways, which were pivotal for trade. The largest was 8 miles long and 20 metres wide.

COATEPANTLI

The inner Sacred Precinct was walled by the *coatepantli*, or 'serpent wall – it was elaborately decorated with snakes.

CANALS

The city was criss-crossed by a network of canals (similar to Venice). The main form of transportation was canoe.

MODEL CITY

The city was remarkably clean – refuse was taken away every single day

CHINAMPAS

On the artificial, floating gardens, or *chinampas*, food was grown – such as corn, pumpkins, pepper, beans, tomatoes, apples and vanilla – for the city's population.

WHY DO WE SAY...



LOCK, STOCK, AND BARREL

There are no prizes for guessing the origin of this phrase – meaning 'the whole thing' – has to do with guns. It's believed the term was used by a US Senator in the early 19th century, who argued that muskets should be manufactured in three separate parts. By keeping the wheel- or flint- lock (the firing mechanism), the stock (or handle) and the barrel apart, the transportation and repair of guns would be easier and hopefully reduce theft of the weapons in transit. Then once at their destination, they could be combined to make the whole, finished thing.

DID YOU KNOW?

GOLDEN BOOTS

Henry VIII owned the earliest known pair of football boots, made from leather in 1526. They cost the King four shillings and were listed among his 17,000 possessions when he died. Ironically, Henry tried to ban the game in 1540 due to its violent nature at the time.

WHO INVENTED THE VENDING MACHINE?

During the mid-first century AD, philosopher, teacher and inventor Hero of Alexandria created a machine that dispensed holy water when a coin was dropped into a slot. Yet this was only one of Hero's many inventions – he's also credited with the first mechanised puppet theatre, a wind-powered organ and a steam-powered engine, all a mere 1,700 years before the Industrial Revolution. MR



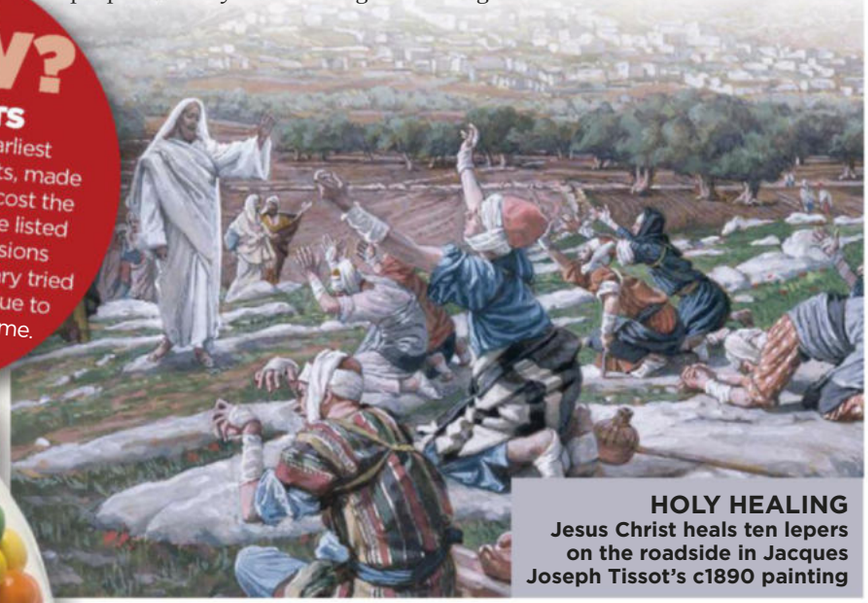
WHAT A HERO
Vending machines date back to Hero of Alexandria, some 2,000 years ago

How did doctors treat **leprosy**?

A sickness of biblical stature, leprosy is one of the most documented diseases in ancient history, and was mentioned in Ancient Egyptian, Chinese, Greek, Roman and Indian texts. It was regarded with horror and usually assumed to be divine punishment, called 'the living death'. Sufferers were treated as though they were already dead and given 'funeral' services, after which their relatives were allowed to inherit their estates.

Leprosy was considered to be highly contagious so the main treatment was containment, which involved isolating the sufferer from healthy people. Lepers would wear bandages to cover their sores and carried a bell to warn people that they were coming. They weren't even allowed inside churches, which is why many medieval churches had built-in 'leper squints' – holes through which 'unclean' people could watch the services. Even as late as the 1940s, sufferers were banished to colonies or even leper islands.

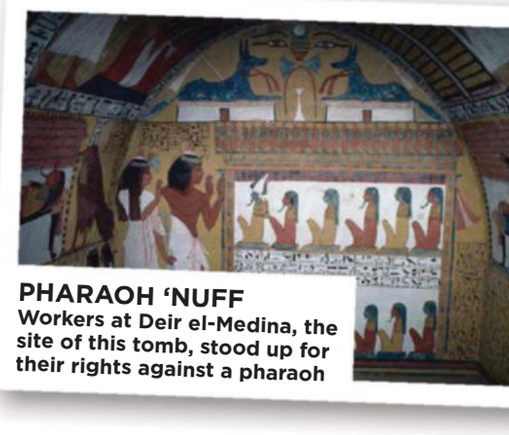
Medicinal oil from the seeds of the chaulmoogra tree had little effect, and no real work was done until Norwegian physician GH Armauer Hansen isolated the leprosy *bacillus* in 1873. When treatments were attempted in the 20th century, they were either painful to administer or the germ quickly developed resistance. It wasn't until the 1970s that a successful 'multi-drug' was created, and later approved by the World Health Organisation in 1981. **SL**



HOLY HEALING
Jesus Christ heals ten lepers on the roadside in Jacques Joseph Tissot's c1890 painting

When was **the first strike**?

The first documented strike in history is thought to be that held by the craftsmen working on the royal tombs at Deir el-Medina, in the mid-12th century BC. Under the rule of Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses III, the workers protested against their insufficient and late rations by organising a sit-down protest in the mortuary. The event is recorded in a single papyrus, which details the workers complaining that: "The prospect of hunger and thirst has driven us to this." After negotiations with the local officials, the strikers were eventually granted provisions and agreed to return to work. **EB**



PHARAOH 'NUFF
Workers at Deir el-Medina, the site of this tomb, stood up for their rights against a pharaoh

ART ARCHIVE X1, ALAMY X1, GETTY X1, CANTERBURY MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES/DK X1, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES X1, ISTOCK X2



FIRE POWER
The priestesses of Vesta, seen in this first-century-AD relief, held great power in Rome

COULD WOMEN IN ANCIENT ROME HOLD ANY POWER?

Freeborn Roman women were not able to vote, hold political office or serve in the military, and only rarely owned land or businesses in their own right. Largely excluded from education, the women of Rome were forever subject to their fathers and husbands, to the point of having no legal rights over their own children.

That's not to say that they couldn't become successful in business and politics, such as Eumachia of Pompeii, who was an extremely wealthy business magnate. Aside from the wives and mothers of Roman emperors, who often held a significant amount of political power, the only official high-ranking job open to women was religious. The *vestals* (who maintained the sacred fire of Rome) were of particularly high status.

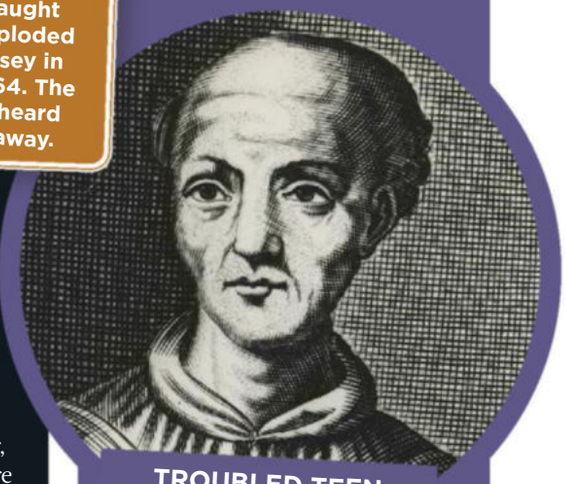
The odds, however, were stacked against Roman women. When Rome encountered societies where women held positions of power, or were treated as being equal to men, they were viewed as being profoundly 'barbarian'. **MR**

11

The number of tons of gunpowder that the *Lottie Sleigh* ship was carrying when it caught fire and exploded in the Mersey in January 1864. The blast was heard 30 miles away.

WHO WAS THE YOUNGEST EVER POPE?

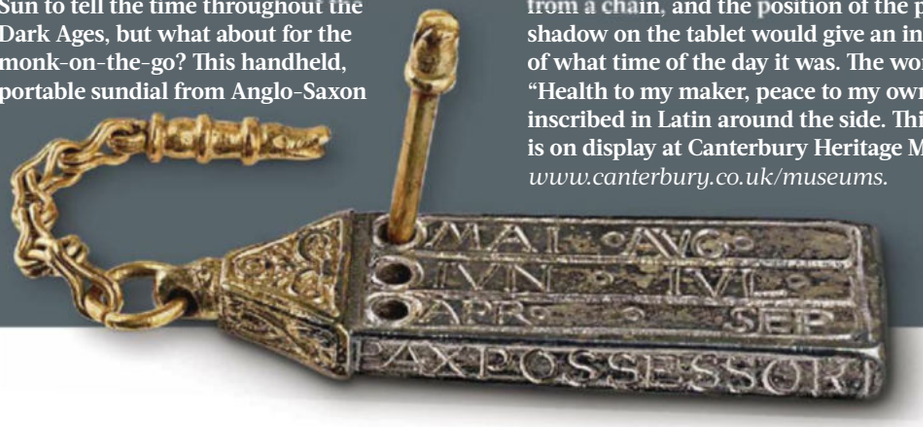
Oddly enough, canon law is rather vague on the minimum age requirement for the papacy. A cleric must be 35 years old to be a bishop, and the Pope is technically the Bishop of Rome, but the Papal election is a secret ballot with its own legal rules. The youngest-ever was John XII, who was elected in the tenth century aged 18, if not younger. Maybe the power went to his head, as John is now considered one of the worst Popes in history. GJ



TROUBLED TEEN
Pope John XII was deposed in AD 963 for his immorality

WHAT IS IT?

Long before mechanical clocks, monks needed accurate time-keeping devices to let them know when it was time for prayer. Large sundials used the position of the Sun to tell the time throughout the Dark Ages, but what about for the monk-on-the-go? This handheld, portable sundial from Anglo-Saxon England may have come in handy. The silver tablet was inscribed with the months, with three different holes into which a peg was inserted. The sundial would then be dangled from a chain, and the position of the peg's shadow on the tablet would give an indication of what time of the day it was. The words "Health to my maker, peace to my owner" are inscribed in Latin around the side. This replica is on display at Canterbury Heritage Museum, *www.canterbury.co.uk/museums.*



NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Wondering about a particular historical happening? Get in touch – our expert panel has the answer!

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Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE&NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • **PAST LIVES** p92 • **BOOKS** p94

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

FESTIVAL

Jorvik Viking Festival

13-21 February at venues across York. Explore the scheduled events at *www.jorvik-viking-festival.co.uk*

Europe's largest Viking festival returns to the streets of York for another packed year of family activities, guided walks, re-enactments and talks. As **2016 marks the millennial anniversary** of when tide-defying Canute was crowned, the 32nd annual festival promises to be even bigger, with a special banquet, a battle and other events being put on in his honour.

While moving from one fun and fascinating activity to the next (the schedule can be found on the website), **stroll through the market,** which sells traditional crafts, replica weapons and all the Viking grub you could want.



Don't forget your costume – minus the historically inaccurate horned helmets!



EVENT

Victorian Butler School

6-14 February, 11am-5pm, at Brodsworth Hall, South Yorkshire DN5 7XJ. Find out more and see ticket prices at *www.english-heritage.org.uk*

Whether you're young or young-at-heart, see if you have the **skills, manners and steady hands** to make it as a butler in a Victorian country house. Under the ever-watchful eye of the master of the house, try to **dress a table for dinner** and keep your uniform in pristine condition.

Check out some activities for family fun with our special half term ideas opposite



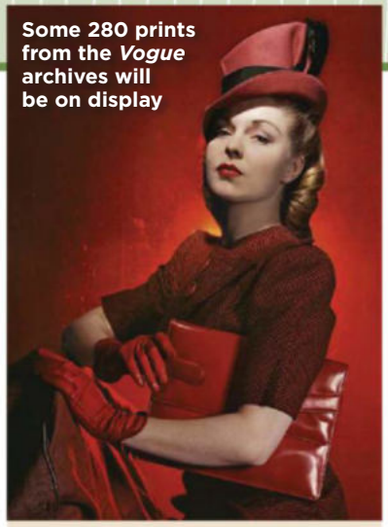
APP

1,000 Years of British Royal History

Available at *bit.ly/RoyalHistoryApp*

Tracing all the Kings and Queens since William the Conqueror, this is a **great starting point** for anyone interested in Britain's royal history.

ENGLISH HERITAGE X2, CECIL BEATON/THE CONDÉ NAST PUBLICATIONS LTD X1



Some 280 prints from the *Vogue* archives will be on display

EXHIBITION

Vogue 100: a Century of Style

11 February to 22 May at the National Portrait Gallery, London. Find out more at *www.npg.org.uk*

To mark 100 years of British *Vogue* – which **began during World War I** as the American version couldn't be shipped over – a major exhibition will celebrate the **landmark photography** that has graced the pages of the fashion bible.



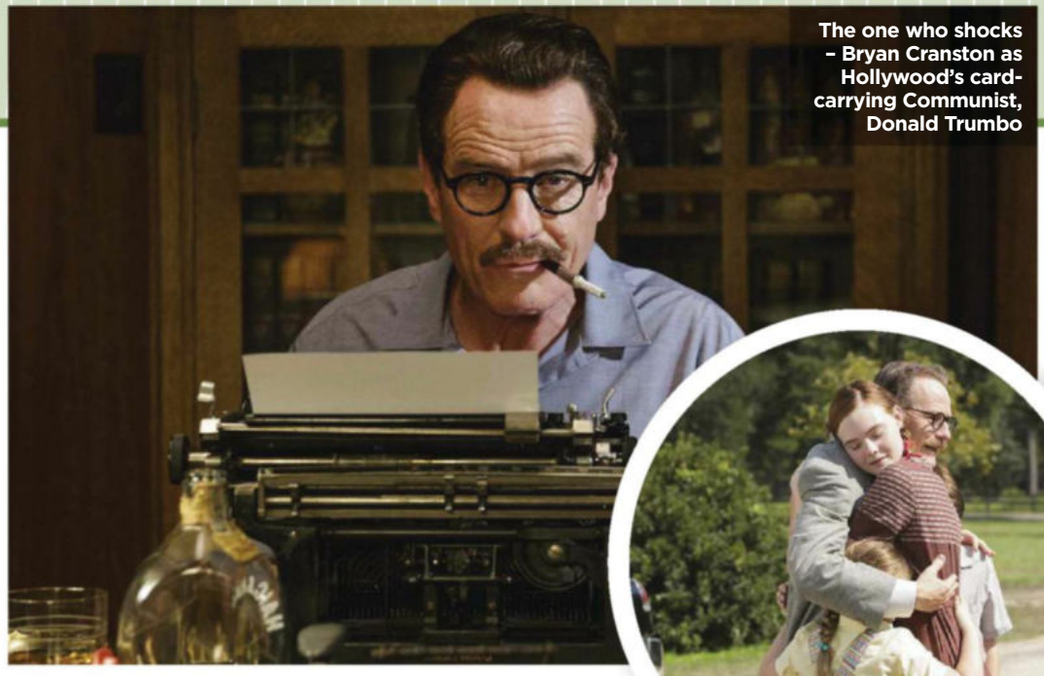
Suzannah Lipscomb is Head of Faculty at the New College of Humanities in London

TALK

The Mystery of Henry VIII's will

Monday 22 February, 6pm, at Senate House, London WC1E 7HU. Book your free ticket at *bit.ly/HenryVIIIwill*

Henry VIII's will is a **compelling document**, with historians arguing its authenticity and meaning. In a free lecture at the New College of Humanities, London, **Dr Suzannah Lipscomb** examines Henry's final days and the drafting of the will.



The one who shocks – Bryan Cranston as Hollywood's card-carrying Communist, Donald Trumbo

FILM

Trumbo

In cinemas 5 February

At the start of 1947, American writer Donald Trumbo is one of the Hollywood elite. He is rich, successful and being picked for the biggest scripts in the industry – but that all changes when he is **subpoenaed to testify on his Communist beliefs**.

With fear of 'Reds under the bed' growing, Trumbo – *Breaking Bad*'s brilliant Bryan Cranston – refuses to co-operate with the House Un-American Activities Committee, so is **jailed and blacklisted**. But that won't stop him from doing what he does best, even if no-one will ever know.

Directed by Jay Roach (of *Austin Powers* fame), Trumbo tells an important chapter in movie history, and the story of **one of its wittiest, most interesting characters**.

▶▶ HALF TERM FUN!

How to be a Roman soldier

13-21 February, Chesters Roman Fort

At the 2,000-year-old Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall, discover what life was like for a soldier of the Empire. There will be a host of activities, from **military drills with Roman weapons to trying out historic costumes** and crafts.



Do you have what it takes to make it in the Roman army?

Crime and Punishment

6-12 February, Edinburgh Castle

Meet Gilbert Savage, the axe-wielding executioner at Edinburgh Castle, as he gives the **gory details of crime and punishment** in medieval Scotland.

Medieval Games

15-17 February, St Fagans Museum, Cardiff

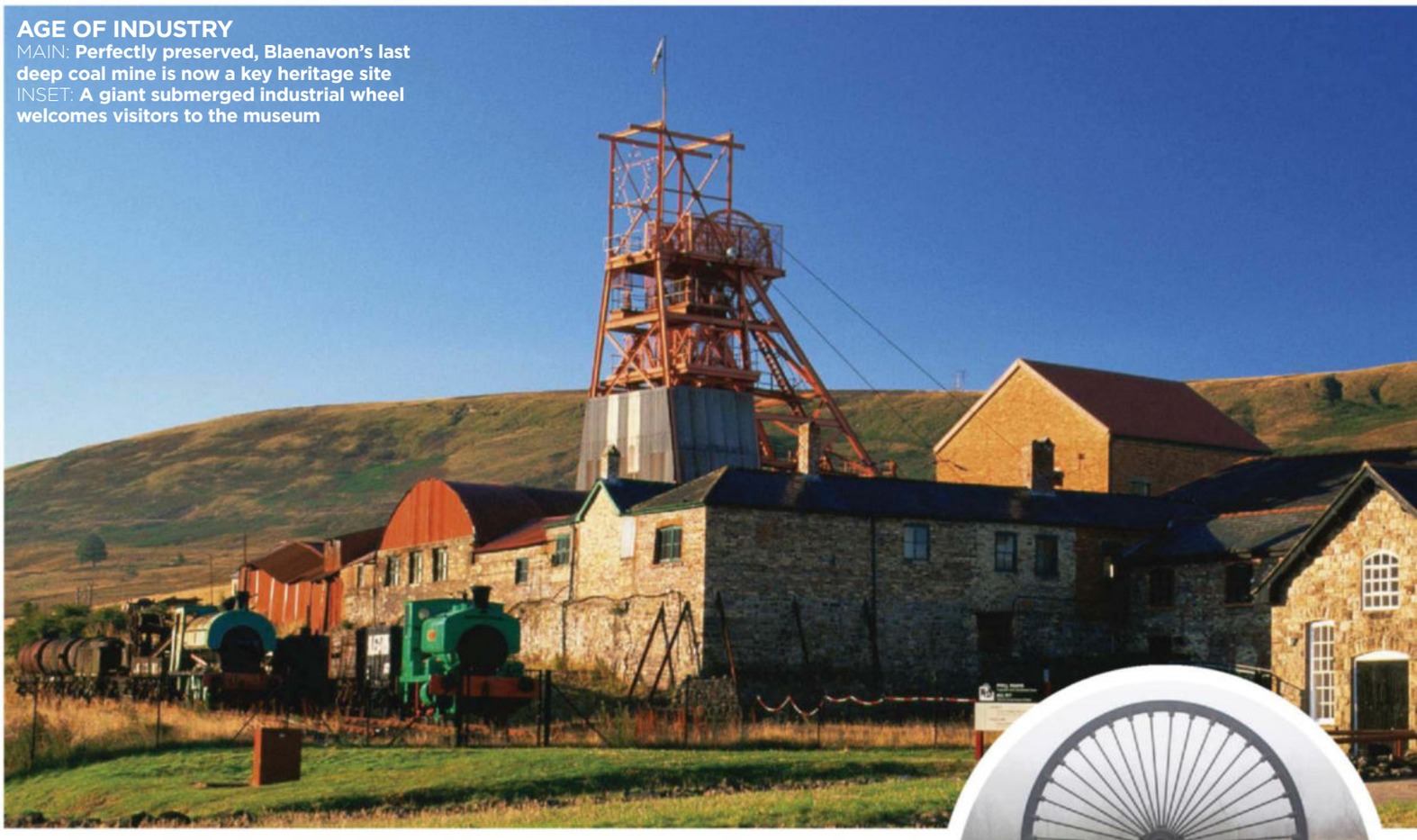
Put your smartphone down and entertain yourself with **games found in the Age of the Princes**, including the strategic board game Nine Men's Morris.

Bill

On DVD 15 February

One for the rainy days – the first feature-length offering by the ***Horrible Histories*** team, starring Bill Shakespeare.





AGE OF INDUSTRY
MAIN: **Perfectly preserved, Blaenavon's last deep coal mine is now a key heritage site**
INSET: **A giant submerged industrial wheel welcomes visitors to the museum**



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

BIG PIT NATIONAL COAL MUSEUM GWENT

Head underground at this former working coal mine and World Heritage Site, as you are taken back to the Industrial Revolution...

GETTING THERE:
To access Big Pit by car, exit the M4 at J25a (westbound) or J26 (eastbound) and follow the brown signs. Regular buses run from Blaenavon town to Big Pit, Monday to Saturday.
TIMES AND PRICES:
Open 9.30am–4.30pm daily. Underground Tours run 10am-3pm. Entry is free.
FIND OUT MORE:
Call 0300 111 2333 or visit *www.museumwales.ac.uk/bigpit*



Big Pit – a colliery in the southern Welsh town of Blaenavon – closed its doors on 2 February 1980. In its 19th-century heyday, the mine had supported thousands of locals but, as the 1980s were beginning, this mine gave up its last lumps of coal. Big Pit, however, hadn't quite finished providing for the local community yet as three years later, its doors reopened. The mine was no longer a fossil-fuel production point, though – it was now a cutting-edge museum, dedicated to preserving and remembering the important mining industry of South Wales. Since that day, over 3.5 million people have visited Big Pit, and discovered the incredible legacy of the site.

THE SOURCE

There is evidence that coal mining took place in the area as far back as Roman times, when the black gems were picked from the hillsides of what is now the South Wales Coalfield. But coal wasn't the only resource Blaenavon's ore-rich landscape held – iron and limestone were also found, and so, in the late 18th century, an ironworks was founded. By 1796, the metal manufactory was the second largest in Wales, and coal production became a key supportive industry.

Big Pit itself started life as Kearsley Pit, established at some point in the early or mid-19th century. In 1860, Kearsley's shaft was sunk to a depth of 39 metres. Two decades later, Kearsley was sunk further still, to 91 metres,

ALAMY X3, BIG PIT NATIONAL COAL MUSEUM X5



WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



1 UNDERGROUND TOUR

Get a taste of life at the coalface with trip down the mineshaft. You'll get a helmet, 5kg lantern to carry and a former miner as a guide.



2 THE PITHEAD BATHS

Built in 1939 to improve conditions for the workers, these buildings now house several exhibitions on Welsh mining.



3 WINDING ENGINE HOUSE

Take a look at 'the winder', the 65-year-old machine that raises and lowers the cages to carry men, kit and coal up and down the pit.



4 THE BLACKSMITHS' YARD

In this yard you'll see some of Big Pit's oldest buildings, and possibly the resident blacksmith, Len – check the website to see if he's going to be on site for your visit.



5 THE POWDER MAGAZINE

The explosives store is safely tucked away, far from the other buildings on the site. It was designed so that any explosions would blast away from the mine.



6 MINING GALLERIES

Get an idea of how the colliery moved into the modern era, and take a look at some of the 20th century's most sophisticated, mechanised mining machines.

"In 1913, a subterranean blaze broke out"

and given an elliptical shaft. This is when it became known as Big Pit. After this, the colliery turned into quite the industrial powerhouse, encompassing several local mines – its oldest (Forge Level) was founded c1812.

The region earned the title of 'King Coal' between the 1880s and World War I, when it reached peak-productivity with its top-quality coal being highly sought after. In 1913, the South Wales Coalfield produced, in total, some 60 million tons of fuel. At that time, Big Pit was key to the success of the region as it employed around 1,300 men and its coal was shipped around the world.

DANGER ZONE

With Blaenavon's success came great risk – mines are notoriously dangerous places to work, and Big Pit was no exception. In 1913, a subterranean blaze broke out. All miners were evacuated but three officials were caught in the toxic fumes when they entered the burnt-out seam to investigate the cause of the fire. Even though many miners volunteered for the rescue party, they were too late.

In the 1920s, Britain's mining industry went into decline. Despite this, a number of renovations took place at Big Pit in the mid-20th century, including the construction of the Pithead Baths (see above) on site in 1939. Previously, the miners would walk home still sooty from work, risking illnesses like pneumonia.

Eventually, the mine did succumb to the industry-wide slump. When it closed in 1980, Big Pit employed just 250 people (less than a fifth of its glory days). Yet plans were already in the works to create an extraordinary museum...

YOUR VISIT

With former miners as guides and plenty to fascinate children and adults alike, Big Pit can easily entertain and enlighten a family for an entire day. The highlight of the visit is the underground tour (see above) – warm clothes and good solid shoes are essential, as it can be chilly and slippery down the pit.

Elsewhere on the site, which – along with the rest of the town – gained UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2000, you'll be able to see exhibitions, historic buildings and even a railway, together telling the story of Welsh mining throughout the ages.

WHY NOT VISIT...

Make the most of your day in the World Heritage Site of Blaenavon

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

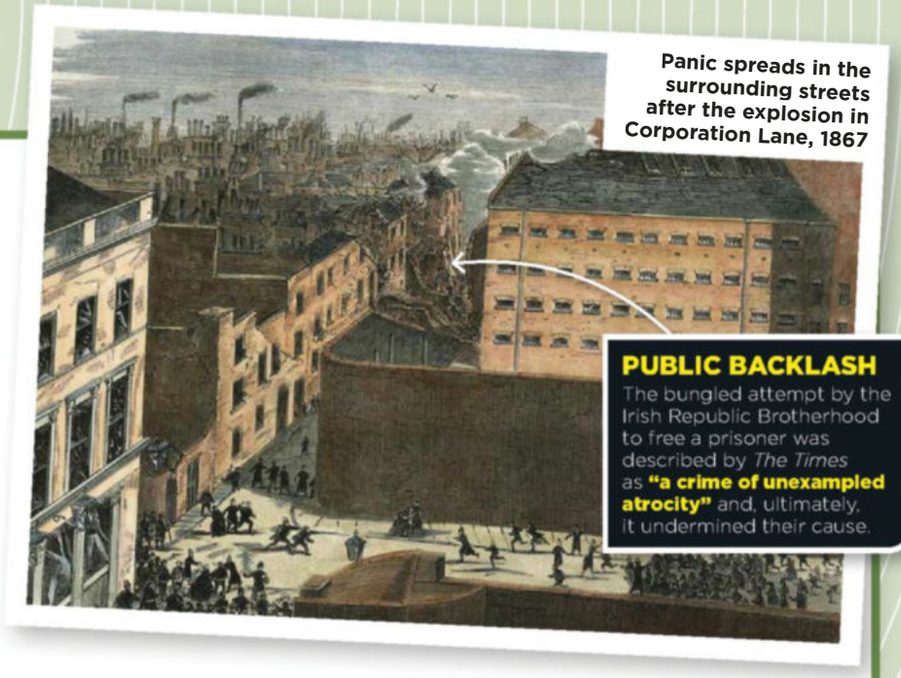
A great start to a day in Blaenavon, this free centre provides an overview of the town's history.
General enquiries: 01495 742333

BLAENAVON IRONWORKS

Blaenavon town sprang up after these ironworks were founded in 1789. Many original buildings remain, including furnaces, kilns and housing.
Search at *www.cadw.gov.wales*

PONTYPOOL AND BLAENAVON RAILWAY

Take a heritage steam train ride through scenic South Wales – regular services operate in peak season.
www.pbrly.co.uk



Panic spreads in the surrounding streets after the explosion in Corporation Lane, 1867

PUBLIC BACKLASH
The bungled attempt by the Irish Republic Brotherhood to free a prisoner was described by *The Times* as **"a crime of unexampled atrocity"** and, ultimately, it undermined their cause.

PAST LIVES

HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR ANCESTORS

DEADLY BLAST SHAKES LONDON

Jon Bauckham reveals the story of the 1867 Clerkenwell Outrage, when Irish republicans in London attempted a prison break – with disastrous consequences

READER'S STORY



Anita Horne
Surrey

My ancestors were severely affected by the Clerkenwell Outrage. I first discovered the connection when I saw the death certificate of my 4x great-grandmother, Martha Elizabeth Hodgkinson, who was known as Elizabeth. It revealed she had died from a brain injury sustained 12 years previously in an "explosion at the Clerkenwell Prison".

I didn't know anything about the event, so I initially assumed Elizabeth had been a prisoner. However, through further research, I learned she had actually been living directly opposite at 3a Corporation Lane, which received the full force of the blast.

Both Elizabeth and her son Henry were taken to St Bartholomew's Hospital to be treated. Elizabeth's injuries were severe: her left eye had been destroyed, her temporal artery was cut and she had severe wounds to her face and forehead.

But more tragically, Henry's wife, Sarah Ann Hodgkinson, was killed at the moment of the explosion. Her body was pulled from the ruins of the house and taken to the mortuary.

I don't think the culprits intended to kill anyone on purpose. It was just a prison break that went badly wrong.

Corporation Lane, Clerkenwell, would have been much like any other working-class street in Victorian London. Lined with shabby tenements, passers-by would have been party to the usual humdrum of city life; children playing, couples bickering and traders peddling their wares. Although one side bordered the Middlesex House of Detention, it was a fairly unremarkable place to live – or so at least its residents thought.

Shortly before 4pm on 13 December 1867, a boy named Thomas Wheeler spotted a smartly-dressed man pushing a wheelbarrow along the road, its contents concealed under a black cloth. But rather than continuing, the man stopped by the prison wall and produced a large barrel of gunpowder from beneath the sheet. By the time anyone had realised what he was doing, the man darted from the scene and a mighty explosion tore through the street.

Alfred Rosling Bennett, who was walking past the nearby Royal Exchange, heard a "loud, dull bang" rising above the din of the traffic. "Wayfarers paused and looked interrogatively at each other," he later recalled, "but nobody proffered any explanation, not even the Royal Exchange beadles, wise as they looked and doubtlessly were."

As the smoke cleared on Corporation Lane, a horrifying tableau of bricks, mortar and mangled bodies was revealed. In total, 12 people were killed, with more than 100 others left injured by the blast. Thomas Wheeler was relatively lucky, only losing some fingers.



The explosion caused massive damage to the prison walls and neighbouring houses

It emerged that the explosion was the handiwork of the Irish Republican Brotherhood – a radical organisation calling for an end to British rule in Ireland. But rather than an act of terrorism, the group maintained it had only intended to break through the prison wall and free a member who had recently been detained for dealing arms in Birmingham.

Six men were tried at the Old Bailey the following April, but only one – Michael Barrett – was convicted of murder. Despite witnesses claiming he was in Glasgow on the day of the incident, Barrett stepped onto the scaffold and became the last person to be publicly executed in Britain on 26 May 1868; a dubious honour that ensured memories of the 'Clerkenwell Outrage' would remain fresh for years to come.

From the Easter Rising to Bloody Sunday, there are certainly more famous events in history to have put a strain on British-Irish relations. But little do people know that one of the most pivotal moments actually occurred on a street in London, nearly 150 years ago.

GET HOOKED

Transcripts of the Old Bailey trial proceedings can be read online at *bit.ly/1l2fFrX*. Resources relating to the Clerkenwell explosion can also be found at Islington Local History Centre. For details about visiting, go to *bit.ly/1QdNiqL*.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WITH A STORY TO TELL? GET IN TOUCH...

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AKG X1, GETTY X1

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"The material is very informative and interesting as well as covering pretty much everything you would need to know when starting to proofread. There are a lot of tips and ideas for freelancers in general that you can see have been tried and tested and are being passed on in good faith.

"Overall, I found the information in this course very useful. It covered all the main areas that anyone interested in working as a proofreader/copy editor would need to know."

Shazia Fardous, Freelance Proofreader and Copyeditor

"This is an extremely helpful course both for those starting proofreading and for those who, like me, need to be reminded of everything we have forgotten. Above all, I thoroughly enjoyed the tone of voice of the author – he writes with authority but manages to keep a light touch."

Dorothy Nicolle

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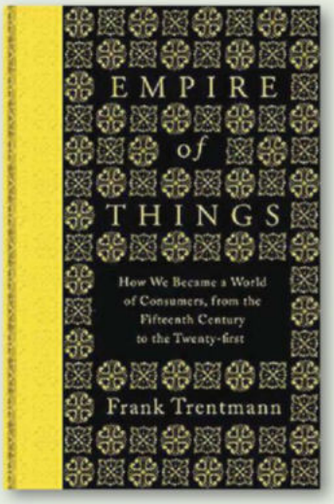
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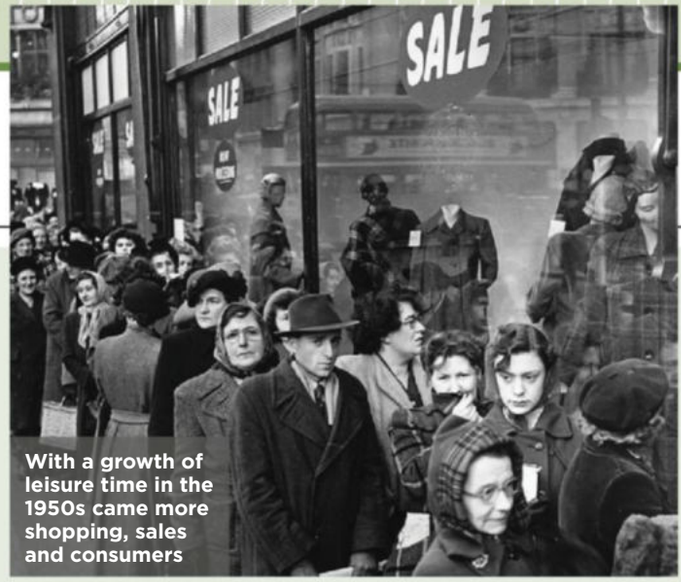
BOOKS

BOOK OF THE MONTH



Empire of Things: How We Became a World of Consumers, from the Fifteenth Century to the Twenty-First

By Frank Trentmann
Allen Lane, £30, 880 pages, hardback



With a growth of leisure time in the 1950s came more shopping, sales and consumers

With the internet always at our fingertips, being a consumer has become a very different thing to how people lived the past. It is now ordinary for people in 21st-century Britain to be able to buy seemingly anything and everything in an instant at the touch of a few buttons. But, as Frank Trentmann argues, it's actually extraordinary, and he suggests that we need to examine this consumerism as part of a much broader historical trend. Only by doing so, can we see it as a way of life that can't go on forever. If this sounds like a dry, worthy essay, however, fear not. Studded with surprising examples and illuminating case studies, it's hugely thought-provoking.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Frank Trentmann implores us to take lessons from history so we can make our lives more sustainable and end the 'empire of things'

What first prompted you to write this book?
We consume enormous amounts. So much of our lives and the world is tied up with it: who we are, our busy lifestyles, debt and growth, waste and sustainability. I wanted to look at the long history behind this to better understand why we live the way we do. Too much public debate assumes that 'consumerism' is a recent result of post-1950 growth and affluence. It goes much deeper.

What have been the biggest factors shaping our material world over the centuries?
Empires, states and ideologies played a crucial role. They both radically changed the terms of consumption – by making available new and exotic products and novelties such as cotton, cocoa and coffee – and spread ideals about what a comfortable 'civilised' lifestyle should look like.

To consume, one needs time as well as money. A big shift since the 1950s has been the intensification of leisure, especially among the educated middle classes. Leisure is no longer idle but increasingly busy. It needs to be productive and demonstrate one's status and skills, from going to the gym and dropping off the kids for their tennis lesson to eating out in nice restaurants.

What challenges do we face in the coming decades?
We live in an unsustainable 'empire of things' and any evidence I have seen points to the ongoing growth of our material metabolism. If we are to have any chance of changing that, we need to take a leaf out of history and understand how we reached this precarious situation in the first place.

What new impression of consumerism would you like to leave readers with?
Consumption is about more than shopping. It interacts with the big forces in history: cities, states and ideas as well as the economy. We need to connect people's daily lives with those forces more, rather than treating them in isolation.

Moreover, consumption is not just some frivolous purchase of luxury items in order to emulate higher classes. It is part of the fabric of modern life, from the hot shower and our use of electronic gadgets to the many changes of clothes. None of this is 'normal'. We – states, social movements and individuals – need to have a more honest conversation about the roots of our unsustainable lifestyles.

"We need to have a conversation about our unsustainable lifestyles"



ALAMY X1, GETTY X1

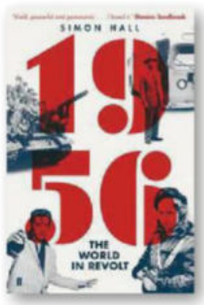
THE BEST OF THE REST



The Romanovs: 1613-1918

By Simon Sebag Montefiore
Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £25, 608 pages, hardback

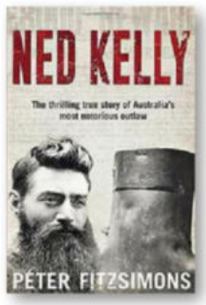
Power, sex and death – you certainly can't say that the Romanovs, who ruled Russia for over three centuries, led quiet lives. From the bestselling author Simon Sebag Montefiore, this is an intimate account, tracking the diverse lives of 20 tsars and tsarinas. Drawing on new evidence, it paints a vivid portrait of a remarkable, and ultimately doomed, dynasty.



1956: the World in Revolt

By Simon Hall
Faber and Faber, £20, 528 pages, hardback

What are the individual years that changed the course of the 20th century? Some – 1914, 1944, 1989 – come immediately to mind, but perhaps 1956 isn't one of them. This book seeks to address that omission. From Poland and Hungary rising up against the Soviets to the Suez Crisis and people across the globe fighting for civil rights, it was a turbulent 12 months.



Ned Kelly: the Thrilling True Story of Australia's Most Notorious Outlaw

By Peter FitzSimons
Bantam Press, £30, 848 pages, hardback

He is an infamous outlaw, whose name has passed into legend, but how much do we know about the real Ned Kelly? That's the key question behind this weighty biography, which explores both the life of the Australian bushranger, and the reasons why Kelly has remained so compelling over the years.

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



The turbulent time of Henry VIII is recreated with stunning artefacts





The King is Dead: the Last Will and Testament of Henry VIII

By Suzannah Lipscomb
Head of Zeus, £14.99, 256 pages, hardback

As generous with its detail as it is with its beautifully reproduced images, this elegant look at the final days of Henry VIII – and the controversy of his will – is a must-read for those fascinated by the Tudor world.

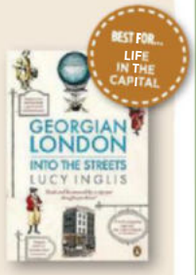
READ UP ON...

THE GEORGIANS

Whether you want to hang out with the fashionable set or plunge into London's vibrant streets, here are three ways to learn more about the Georgian world...



Take in the frills, wigs and hats of 17th- and 18th-century Britain



Georgian London: Into the Streets
By Lucy Inglis (2013)

Wander through the capital with Lucy Inglis as your warm, wise guide through this packed book. Tradesmen, criminals, gin addicts and an alcoholic zebra – the full spectrum of life is here. And it's not so dissimilar to today, either.



The First Bohemians
By Vic Gatrell (2013)

Rather than a whistle-stop tour of the whole of London, why not focus on one area? In an entertaining read, Gatrell journeys through the coffee shops and back alleys of Covent Garden, home to the Georgian period's artists, actors and writers.



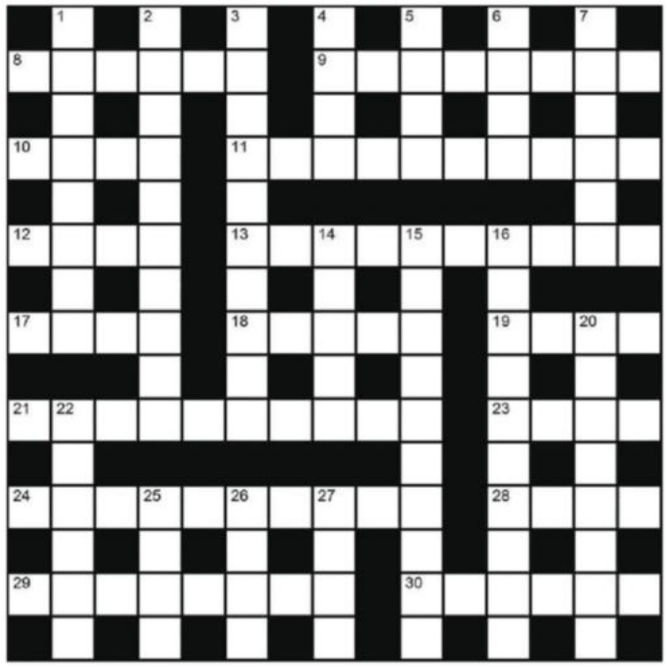
The Strangest Family: the Private Lives of George III, Queen Charlotte and the Hanoverians
By Janice Hadlow (2014)

George III's long reign was marked by conflict, instability and mental illness. This biography of him and his family is compelling and, at times, moving – particularly when it comes to the era's female figures.

CROSSWORD Nº 26

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

8 The name shared by the first four Hanoverian Kings of England (6)
9 Benjamin ___ (1833-1901), the 23rd President of the United States (8)
10 Beatrice ___ (1858-1943), English Socialist economist and co-founder of the London School of Economics and Political Science (4)
11 Pertaining to the Emperor of the French from 1804 until 1814 – Wars or Code, perhaps? (10)
12 "Out, damned ___" – from *Macbeth*, Act 5, Scene 1 (4)
13 Dwight D ___ (1890-1969), Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in western Europe during World War II (10)
17 Queen ___'s War, Anglo-French conflict fought in North America, 1702–13 (4)
18 *The Secret* ___, 1907 novel by Joseph Conrad (5)
19 Marble ____, London landmark designed by John Nash in 1827 (4)
21 Sandro ___ (1445-1510), Florence-born painter (10)
23 1847 novel of the South Seas, by Herman Melville (4)
24 Arnold ___ (1874-1951), Austrian composer and painter who fled the Third Reich (10)
28 "Anything that consoles is ___" – 1970 quote by Irish author Iris Murdoch (4)
29 Island nation formerly known as Ceylon (3,5)
30 Louisa May ___ (1832-88), US author of works, including *Little Women* (1868) (6)

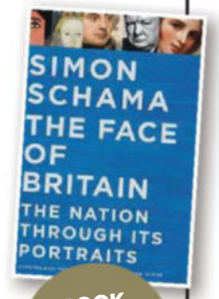
DOWN

1 Fictional boy whose statue has stood in Kensington Gardens since 1912 (5,3)
2 London thoroughfare traditionally associated with journalists, poets and hack writers (4,6)
3 Name by which Joan of Arc (burned at the stake in 1431) is known in French (6,4)
4 "As idle as a painted ___" – from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner* (1797-98) (4)
5 Jacques ___ (1929-78), Influential Belgian singer and songwriter (4)
6 Josip Broz ___ (1892-1980), President of Yugoslavia (4)
7 Name of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's sixth child, the Duchess of Argyll (6)
14 ___ City, traditional nickname for Sheffield (5)
15 Birth city of chemist Jesse Boot, physician Erasmus Darwin and suffragist and writer Alice Zimmern (10)
16 Room in the West Wing of the White House (4,6)
20 Davy ___ (1786-1836), American frontiersman (8)
22 Informal name for the Academy Awards, first presented in 1929 (6)
25 City in Norway known as Kristiana until 1925 (4)
26 Sir Trevor ___ (born 1940), theatre and film director (4)
27 In the Bible, the brother of Jacob (4)

CHANCE TO WIN...

The Face Of Britain

by Simon Schama
Celebrated historian Simon Schama delves into the some of Britain's most famous and lesser-known portraits, revealing their stories and, in turn, presenting a fresh take on the nation's history. Published by Viking, £30

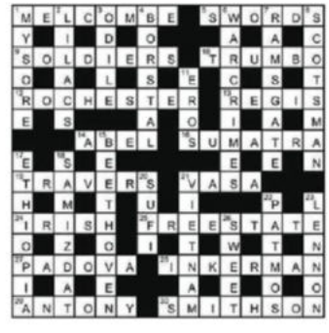


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HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, February 2016 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **february2016@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **2 March 2016**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION Nº 24



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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of ***History Revealed***) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy.

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A–Z of History

Once more, our oracle **Nige Tassell** offers up an opulent omnibus of the obscure, oddball, oldfangled and outstanding

OSCAR THE UNORIGINAL?

The great Irish playwright Oscar Wilde had, to say the least, a complicated relationship with his older brother Willie. Tensions arose from Willie's debt and heavy drinking, and strains in the family were worsened further by the elder Wilde's choice of career – theatre critic. Willie was almost certainly the author of an 1892 review of Oscar's latest play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, which concluded that the script was "brilliantly unoriginal".

Ohio makes it official

Although Ohio's borders and constitution were approved by US President Thomas Jefferson in 1803, Congress didn't actually pass the resolution to admit it to the union as the 17th state. It wasn't until 1953 that the oversight was noticed, and a back-dated resolution was swiftly drafted and approved to make the 'Buckeye state' official.

OTTOMAN OFFENCES

Ibrahim I – tellingly nicknamed Ibrahim the Mad – was the 20-something Sultan of the Ottoman Empire during the 1640s. He was infamous for both a voracious sexual appetite and impulsive, often violent behaviour. The grimmest episode of his rule involved – following a fit of jealousy on the Sultan's part – the drowning of all 280 members of his harem in a lake.

ILLUSTRATION: DAWN COOPER



OREGON TRAIL ORDEALS

It wasn't just horse-drawn wagons that bumped their way along the Oregon Trail in the 19th century, from the Missouri River towards the Pacific coast. One entrepreneur built a doomed 'wind wagon', which was propelled by giant sails, while some hardy migrants even pushed their worldly possessions along the 2,200 miles in wheelbarrows.

OLYMPICS ARE OPEN

The five interlocking rings constituting the Olympic symbol each have a different colour – blue, yellow, black, green and red. Described by its designer, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, as "truly an international symbol", the rings (and the white background) represent the colours of the flags of every nation at the time of the symbol's adoption in 1913.

ORIGINS OF THE ORINOCO

The mouth of the Orinoco, the 1,330-mile Venezuelan river, might have been 'discovered' by Christopher Columbus in 1498, but it wasn't until 1944 that the source was pin-pointed in the remote Parima Mountains. Even then, it was only spotted by accident, by the pilot of a US army observation plane on a routine flight.

ONE-WAY ORDER IN POMPEII

Since being unearthed, the preserved city of Pompeii has told us much about everyday life in the Roman Empire. Archaeologists have even studied the traffic patterns of its narrow streets. From close examination of wheel ruts left in the paving stones, they have deduced that all carts along particular thoroughfares were travelling in the same direction, creating what was perhaps the world's first one-way system.

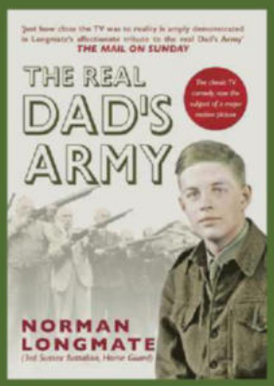
The OED odyssey

The two joint editors of the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, James Murray and Henry Bradley, never lived to see the full publication of their opus. Despite work beginning in 1879 – which was already 20 years after the idea of the lengthy, lexical project was conceived – it wasn't until 1928 that the completed dictionary was published.

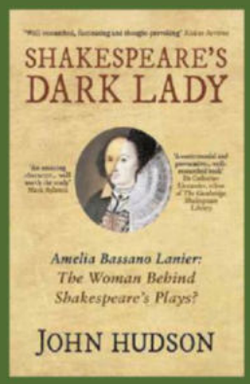
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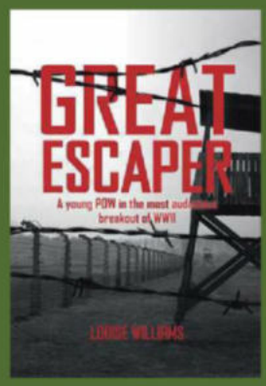
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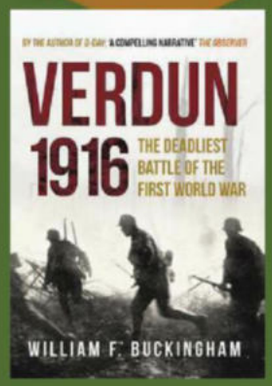
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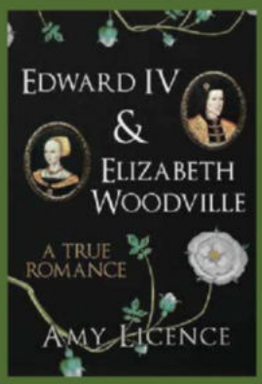
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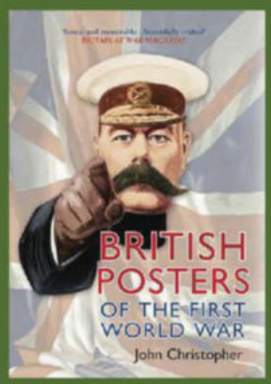
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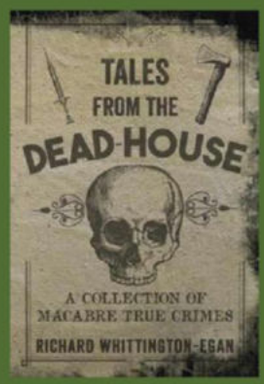
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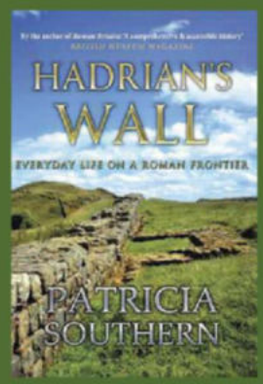
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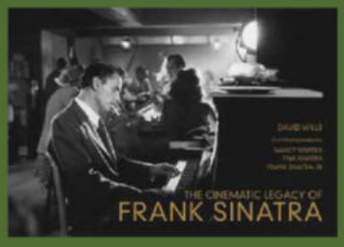
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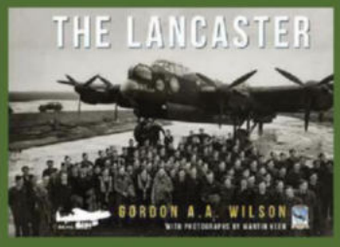
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